

Exhibition of the Month And Did Those Feet

The Belgian conceptual artist Tom Bogaert will be having his first solo exhibition in Palestine, "And Did Those Feet," from June 28 to August 31, 2012, at Al Hoash Gallery in Jerusalem. Bogaert has been working in the region for the past three years on his project, "Impression, proche orient" (IPO), an art project referencing issues relevant to contemporary Near East society, including the changes, politics, artistic identity, and the new Arabs. The exhibition at Al Hoash Gallery networks the region as a whole and will include works from IPO in Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria. Bogaert's perspective is insightful and accessible; the artwork is politically provocative and formally inventive.

Drawing on his experience as a European living and working in the East, it is the artist's intention to interpret understandings of the region – or lack thereof – from the inside out. As he is an outsider with the privilege of being given access to the inside, Bogaert's aim is to use irony, gesture, and narratives from the region by means of artistic production. The exhibition at Al Hoash will combine the reconstruction of installations and the documentation of the works and experiments of the past three years.

The symbolic references of the individual IPO chapters are quite simple, but through twisted starting points such as cucumbers and cars in Jordan, simple images of representation become building blocks for deeper analysis. In Syria it was the story about eye doctor

Bashar al-Assad: like a tragic story from One Thousand and One Nights. In Palestine, Bogaert worked with Ariel washing powder bought in the settlement of Ariel, and most recently with Nablus ants. In Lebanon, the artist fixed broken glass curb markers and presented maps of Beirut salvaged from car glass repair shops. "Empire state-building" deals with the failed attempts at state-building by imperialistic outsiders in Iraq.

Bogaert will also present a new site-specific work for Jerusalem based on an 1808 poem by William Blake, *And did those feet in ancient time*. Today the poem is best known as the anthem "Jerusalem," with music written by Hubert Parry in 1916.

The exhibition reflects the multi-faceted ingenuity, the subtle provocation, and the witty playfulness characteristic of Bogaert's work.

Opening reception: Thursday, June 28, at 7:00 p.m.

Press preview with the artist: 4:00 p.m.

June 28 to August 31, 2012

Monday to Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Al Hoash Gallery
Zaitouna Mansion, 7 Zahra Street
East Jerusalem

<http://www.alhoashgallery.org>

<http://tombogaert.org>

Text and images courtesy of Al Hoash Gallery.



'Empire state-building' hakumat al tayarra (government by aircraft) - Iraq 2012.