



Press Release / Pressemitteilung

Sharon Ya'ari. The Romantic Trail and the Concrete House

Haus Esters, March 8 – August 23, 2020

The Memory of Images

Haus Lange, March 8 – August 2, 2020

Press conference: Thursday, March 5, 2020, 11 am
Opening: Sunday, March 3, 2020, 11.30 am

In March 2020, the Kunstmuseen Krefeld are presenting the first German solo exhibition of the Israeli photographer Sharon Ya'ari. Ya'ari has developed a site-specific show for Haus Esters that examines its atmosphere and intellectual history. Erected between 1927 and 1930 by the architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Haus Lange and Haus Esters are two of the most iconic structures in the history of New Objectivity architecture in Germany and representatives of European modernism. The starting point of Ya'ari's photographic exploration is the legacy of the modernist formal language in Israel along with its associated societal vision and their confrontation with a conflict-ridden everyday reality.

"Ya'ari urgently poses questions that are frequently of interest to us as regards the objectives of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld: How does the legacy of modernism manifest itself? What is its significance for the artistic and societal perspectives of the present day?" asks the museum's director Katia Baudin. In the process, Ya'ari is less concerned with the perspective of architectural photography but rather with marginalia, the relics of everyday life that are subject to decay and transience. Ya'ari regularly searches out places that are rich in history and which demonstrate up the contrast between constructed vision and everyday life in a highly charged manner. The camera's gaze exposes the political in the ostensibly trivial and arbitrary, triggering reflections on time, memory and social conditions. The core of the exhibition is made up of multi-part series of photographs, a large-format artist's book and sculptural elements that Ya'ari dedicated to a public square in the southern Israeli desert city of Beersheba. The artist has frequently returned there, documenting the changes it has undergone over a long period of time, for example the revitalization and repurposing endeavors carried out there as well as the traces of decay. An urban sculpture made of concrete cylinders that the city recently abandoned in conjunction with the redevelopment of the square has been brought to Krefeld, where it finds a new temporary location in the sculpture garden of Haus Esters as a disturbing factor in a modernistic guise, a monument without a definite message that continues the transfer of forms and ideas, as it were, in the opposite direction. "Modernist utopias overlap with the history of its breaks and fissures," say the show's curator Magdalena Holzhey, "the title *The Romantic Trail and the Concrete House*, which Ya'ari took from tourist signposts, also alludes to this notion. It not only reflects the search for a place of longing that can be a cliché at the same time but also the confrontation with a reality that contains the concretely tangible as well as the building material of modernism." Ya'ari developed the exhibition as a whole for Haus Esters by creating a dialogue with the architecture through the various techniques he selected and the sizes of his photographs. The exhibition contrasts the iconic timeless space of the villa with the contemporary perspective of a fragile reality.

Kunstmuseen Krefeld

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum Haus Lange Haus Esters

Joseph-Beuys-Platz 1 kunstmuseen@krefeld.de
D-47798 Krefeld T +49 (0)2151 97558 0
F +49 (0)2151 97558 222
www.kunstmuseenkrefeld.de



ROMANTIC TRAIL

Sharon Ya'ari (born 1966, lives and works in Tel Aviv and teaches at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem) is one of the most renowned Israeli artists of his generation. Sharon Ya'ari's work is characterized by a precise as well as versatile use of the photographic medium that he comprehends as a means of cultural and political research. He has been represented in numerous international solo and group exhibitions, including at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art (IL), National Gallery Museum, Vilnius (LT), Kunsthaus Baselland, Basel (CH), Drexler University Art Gallery, Philadelphia (US), National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi (India), Camera Austria, Graz (A), Israel Museum, Jerusalem (IL). In 2018, he was awarded the EMET Prize for Arts, Science and Culture, which is presented in Israel for excellence in academic and professional achievements that have a far-reaching influence and make a significant contribution to society.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a profusely illustrated catalogue (German/English), published by Snoeck Verlag in collaboration with the Oldenburger Kunstverein and the Kunstverein Heilbronn.

In parallel, the Kunstmuseen Krefeld are presenting the exhibition *The Memory of Images* at Haus Lange, which features a selection of pieces from the museum's own collections. Works by such artists as Allora & Calzadilla, Christian Boltanski, Käthe Kollwitz, Gerhard Richter, Anri Sala, Thomas Struth, Luc Tuymans and Jeff Wall visualize the diverse means of dealing with history and identity. Together with Sharon Ya'ari's exhibition, the presentation forms a dialogue concerning artistic dealings with historically charged sites and collective memory.

Curator: Magdalena Holzhey

Sharon Yaari. The Romantic Trail and the Concrete House has been supported by



أكاديمية
artis

outset.

Canon

green | GARTENKULTUR

Visit

Haus Lange Haus Esters
Wilhelmshofallee 91–97 | D-47800 Krefeld
Tue–Sun 11am – 5pm

Press contact

Timm Nikolaus Schulze
Kunstmuseen Krefeld
T + 49 (0) 2151 97558-131
timm.schulze@krefeld.de