

THE NIGHT ILLUMINATES THE NIGHT

A SOLO EXHIBITION
RAFAEL Y. HERMAN

MACRO - Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Roma

January 2017 - March 2017

International Debut

DETAIL OF A WORK FROM "THE NIGHT ILLUMINATES THE NIGHT"



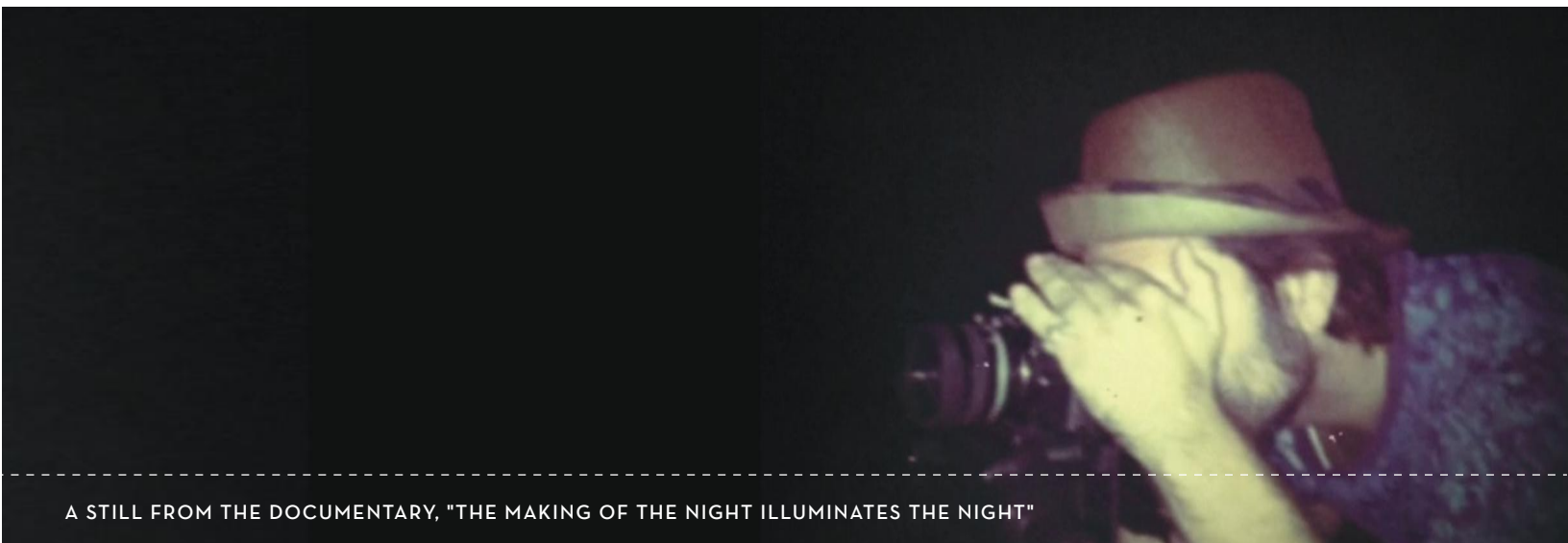
DETAIL OF A WORK FROM "THE NIGHT ILLUMINATES THE NIGHT"

EXHIBITION --- CONCEPT

“If it is not seen, does it exist?”

The exhibition focuses on a five-year dialogue the artist established with Old Master painters who depicted the Holy Land, a land that they had never seen. Like these painters, Herman does not see the landscape either; his works are a result of idealisation and imagination. He often questions: “If it is not seen, does it exist?” And, “if it exists, in what way? Is it exactly the way we see it in everyday light? What is the role of light in existence?”

Working at night in full darkness, with the medium of photography to document his research, Herman produces a created reality, offering to his public as the Old Master painters did, ideal landscapes that only exist in their art.



A STILL FROM THE DOCUMENTARY, "THE MAKING OF THE NIGHT ILLUMINATES THE NIGHT"

He shoots without knowing the landscape or seeing his subject, revealing an imaginary reality in his work.

Herman pursues his nocturnal research through portraits of three different environs: the rich and spiritually suggestive Forests of the Galilee, the fecund wild flowers and fields of the Judean Mountains, and the Mediterranean Sea. His images

invite us to discuss the invisible or, as the artist sometimes likes to describe it, the "non-seen" (which is the light itself). Grappling with the unseen is an age-old quest - philosophy, religion, psychology, quantum mechanics - all postulate on what is, what is observed and what is true. Herman's work exists within these realms and queries essential questions about our experience on earth.



montem 12
180 x 256.5 cm / 71 x 101 inch



nocte decus
180x270cm / 71x106inch



imaginarium silvarum
Diptych, 180x540cm / 71x212inch



somnum rubrum
180 x 244 cm / 71 x 96 inch



aquam superiorem
180 x 244 cm / 71 x 96 inch



THE ARTIST

Rafael Y. Herman was born in 1974 in Be'er Sheva, an ancient city in the Negev Desert in Israel. The winner of the Prague Fotosféra Award in 2015, Herman began studying classical music at the age of six, becoming a percussionist in Philharmonic orchestras, ensembles and rock bands. Following a long stay in New York City, he studied at the School of Economics and Management at the University of Tel Aviv. Throughout his studies, he supported himself financially by providing consulting services to assess collections and jewelry, travelling to Kenya and Tanzania. Graduating in 2000, he moved to Latin America, taking a long research trip in seven countries: photographing Cuban musicians, the Carnival of Bahia and the Zapatistas in Mexico, working with Amnesty International in Paraguay, then studying painting in Mexico City and Chile and becoming part of an artists' commune. This visual apprenticeship combines vision, metropolitan experience and encounters with uncontaminated nature. In 2003, Herman moved to Milan, showing the project "Bereshit-Genesis" at Palazzo Reale, a project created with a method of his own devising: nocturnal photography without electronic aids or digital manipulation, revealing what cannot normally be seen by the naked eye. This exhibition launched Herman into the international art scene. In 2012, Herman's portrait of John Chamberlain was chosen by the Guggenheim Museum of N.Y. for the inside cover of Chamberlain's book, "Choices." In 2013, he was invited by TED to speak on his artistic language, a talk he titled "Alternative Reality." His recent works address two main themes: metaphysical curiosity and the tale of what lies beyond, and the investigation of light as a physical element and protagonist of space-time. Significant public and private collections have acquired numerous works by Herman, including the Tel Aviv Museum of Art and Salsali Private Museum of Dubai. Currently living and working in Paris, he is a resident artist of La Cité Internationale des Arts de Paris for the second time.



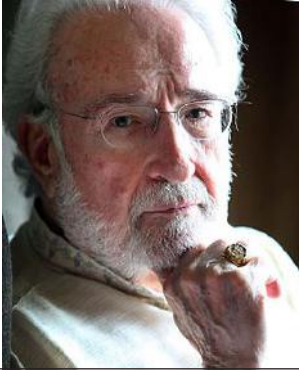
CURATOR

Giorgia Calo, Ph.D. historian and art critic, is the author of numerous critical essays for magazines such as Art & Dossier, Artribune, LuxFlux, EQUIPÈCO and Inside Art. She has published several books, including *Trilogy Artist; The Film by Mario Schifano* (Lithos, 2004); *Fashion and Art; By Decadent all'ipermoderno* (Gangemi, 2009); *About Paper and Israeli Contemporary Art* (Ed, Postmedia Books, Milan 2012). Attention surrounding Calo's work has inspired the publication of many critical essays, articles and books. Amongst her latest work is the publication of the free press magazine, *Artribune Israel*, where she holds the position of Editor-in-Chief. Since 2009, Calo has focused her work on Israeli contemporary art, creating exhibitions and publishing projects dedicated to new research in this genre. As of 2016, she has established many significant exhibitions in museums and galleries involving dozens of emerging and established Israeli artists, like Tsibi Geva, who was the selected artist for the Israeli Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2015. Currently, Calo is the Assessor for Culture and Historical Archives of the Jewish Community of Rome, a role she accepted while working on Rafael Y. Herman's exhibition at the MACRO.



CURATOR

Stefano Rabolli Pansera is an Italian architect and curator. He studied at London's Architectural Association School of Architecture, graduating with Honours in 2005. Working at Herzog & De Meuron from 2005 to 2007, he returned to the AA School to teach from 2007 to 2011. He has lectured in Cagliari, Cambridge, Naples, Wuhan, Seoul, Reykjavik and Madrid. In 2010, he founded Beyond Entropy Ltd., a London-based non-profit operating internationally at the threshold of art, architecture and geopolitics. In 2012 and 2013, he directed the Museum of Contemporary Art of Calasetta and initiated, designed and directed the Mangiabarche Gallery in Sardinia. Beyond Entropy Ltd. produced "Ilha de Sao Jorge", an itinerant video exhibition that has shown in Venice Lisbon, Milan and London. It is also developing "From Hands to Mind", researching new forms of design in Portuguese speaking countries in Africa, commissioned by Lisbon's Experimenta and exhibited at Milan's XXI Triennale. With Paula Nascimento, Rabolli Pansera curated the 1st Angola Pavilion at the 13th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, and the Angola Pavilion at the 55th International Arts Exposition - La Biennale di Venezia, winning the Golden Lion for Best National Participation. In 2015, he founded Kunsthalle Brixiae, curating its first show, "Il Quarto Stato", with Yuri Ancarani, Madoka Furuhashi and Michael Sailstorfer. Following a curatorial commissioning by Ethical Fashion Initiative (United Nations) on the Art and Fashion in Haiti in 2014, Rabolli Pansera continues to research the Caribbean with Shala Monroe. An Aspen Junior Fellow since 2011, Rabolli Pansera joined The Council for the United States and Italy in 2015. He was invited to become Amico di Aspen in 2016. He is currently developing Mediter-Radio, a digital pop-up station that reveals and connects a network of 1037 museums along the Mediterranean coastline.



CATALOGUE

Forward by Arturo Schwarz

Arturo Schwarz (born February 3, 1924) is an Italian scholar, art historian, poet, writer, lecturer, art consultant and curator of international art exhibitions. He lives in Milan, where he has amassed a significant and large collection of Dada and Surrealist art, including many works by personal friends such as Marcel Duchamp, André Breton, Man Ray and Jean Arp. On 6 March 1998, he was awarded the Diploma of First Class with gold medal for outstanding merits in the fields of culture and the arts by the President of Italian Republic Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, on the recommendation of the Minister of Cultural Heritage Walter Veltroni. In 2006, he won Italy's Premio Frascati for his collected works of poetry (1946-2007). In October 2009, Schwarz curated an exhibition of Dada and Surrealism, "Dada e surrealismo riscoperti" (Dada And Surrealism Rediscovered), at the Vi Woriano Museum Complex in Rome. Schwarz has been following Herman's career since 2007.



LOCATION

MACRO

MACRO TESTACCIO, the Museum
of Contemporary Art of Rome

Piazza Orazio Giustiniani 4, Roma

Tel: + 39 06 671070428

www.museomacro.org



PHOTO CREDIT: JUDIT GELLER AND ANNA ILDIKO PETO

Rome's first and only contemporary art museum, the MACRO, from the Italian Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Roma, was founded in the late 1990's.

One of Rome's official public museums, the MACRO has been deemed an international focus for contemporary art, occupying two distinct structures: MACRO Via Nizza, the former Peroni brewery site built in the early 20th century, and MACRO Testaccio, Rome's former 19th century slaughterhouse in the eclectic and 'up-and-coming' Testaccio neighbourhood.



Carsten Holler's VIP opening dinner at MACRO, 2012



Erwin Wurm, MACRO Testaccio, 2006





In 2002, the MACRO inaugurated MACRO Testaccio, the venue of Rafael Y. Herman's solo exhibition "the night illuminates the night," with the mission of rousing further interest and appreciation for contemporary art. A 1000-square-metre space with fifteen-metre ceilings built by architect Gioacchino Ersoch between 1888 and 1891, the astonishing structure's original set of buildings serves as one of the most compelling examples of "industrial archaeology" in modern times. Since its inception, the MACRO has hosted solo exhibitions for some of the most significant contemporary artists from

around the world. To name just a few, these artists include Alfredo Jaar and Jenny Saville in 2005; Erwin Wurm and Christian Boltanski in 2006; AES+F in 2008; Martin Parr in 2009; Antony Gormley and Aaron Young in 2010, Carsten Höller and Giorgio Griffa in 2011; Mircea Cantor in 2012; Jorinde Voigt in 2014; Jonathan Monk and Nakis Panayotidis in 2015 and Bruce Nauman in 2016. Current exhibitions include Ugo Rondinone and William Kentridge. The MACRO's permanent collection includes more than 1,200 significant and influential artworks by national and international artists since 1960.



EXHIBITION
SPACE



THE SPACE

19th century Pavilion 9A
1000m² (10000 square feet)



“I developed my own way to measure light, relying on mathematics and instinct, to try and make us see the things we think we cannot see.”

- Rafael Y. Herman,
TED Talk, 2013

PROSPECTIVE RENDERING OF EXHIBITION SPACE

INSTALLATION CONCEPT

(subject to curatorial discretion)

25 large scale works, Video, Installation

THANKS TO



Comune di Roma - Assessorato alla Crescita culturale
sovrintendenza capitolina ai beni culturali roma

MACRO - Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Roma

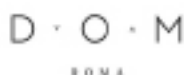
MUSEUM SERVICES



TECHNICAL PARTNERS



PALAZZO DAMA



ROMA

Ambasciata Di Israele in Italia - Ufficio culturale
IIFCA - Fondazione Italia Israele per la Cultura e le Arti
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