

Karam Natour: Night Vision

April 17 - June 12, 2021

Entitled “Night Vision,” the exhibition of Karam Natour (*1992, Nazareth; lives and works in Tel Aviv-Yafo) at CCA – Center for Contemporary Art Tel Aviv, continues the artist’s interest in the power of language, and specifically how translation becomes a unique vehicle for a deeper understanding of issues connected to identity, race and gender. Autobiographical, yet not directly so, truly performative, and always through the filter of the camera, the work of Karam Natour takes distinctive elements of his own self in order to trigger questions that go beyond the person *he* (Karam Natour) is and what *he* represents in Israel and in the Middle East at large.

Commissioned by CCA Tel Aviv for this exhibition, *Enter The View* is a video work based on the artist’s ongoing interest in the crucial role played by language within the formation, creation, alteration and fragmentation of our identity. A parody of the so-called “late-night talk shows,” which are part of American television but have famously influenced Western culture and beyond, in *Enter The View* we see the artist being interviewed in this distinctive manner. However such format, that of the interview, takes a bizarre turn, putting both the interviewer (an actor and comedian hired by Natour) and the interviewee (Natour himself) in uncomfortable situations. Referring to both Gaspar Noé’s experimental drama art film *Enter the Void* (2009) and *The Eric Andre Show*, an American surreal comedy television series which began airing in 2012, the video is the latest window into Natour’s unique, humorous and bizarre ‘universe’.

Alongside the presentation of this new commission, CCA Tel Aviv will also publish *Jester Lux*, an artist book focused on Natour’s so-called digital drawings (some of them were presented in the sphere of the social media and some others never presented before) in which the artist – via Jester, his “nonhuman collaborator” – appears as the protagonists of surreal scenarios and absurd situations, mixing elements from art history (pop art), literature (*Alice in Wonderland*), history (Ancient Egypt) and culture (the figure of the donkey in the Middle East.)

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