

KLONE

**Memory of a Tree
Forgetfulness of a Land**

01.12.2016 – 07.01.2017

Gallery Talk: Friday, 23.12.2016, 12pm

At the center of the exhibition stands the tree – as a material presence built specifically for the space, and as a meaningful symbol. For Klone it is a signifier of location, a landmark, an anchor holding the soil in place, the way a memory holds down identity. The ceiling beams spread out from the artificial trunk as actual branches; together with the topographic lines appearing in the surrounding works they outline the physical space of the gallery and the imaginative world the artist creates. This is a world populated by his characters, each bearing a cultural significance, a spot in the collective memory, in addition to the personal meaning.

Klone explores the mechanisms by which an identity is defined in a specific time and place. With his unique visual vocabulary he builds the identity search narrative whose protagonist is the traveler, the nomad, the immigrant or the refugee. To the artist, they all share a common state of mind: that of perpetual mobility, constant motion – whether in the geo-political or the imaginary sphere.

This is a movement that grows out of a sense of detachment, striving to plant roots in a space, in an area, in society; to find a human connection, like Klone's figures that long to touch, to feel, to belong. These figures travel in an empty world, disconnected from its history and residents. They nurture new life inherently, out of a compulsory instinct, almost against their will. Just like that female figure standing on black soil marked with thin lines - topographic lines that are used to schematically outline the surface, creating a sort of a generalized place – within her, as if on its own, a tree rises.

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Having emigrated himself from Ukraine to Israel at a young age, the action of tagging, marking a territory in the urban environment – as in the Street Art culture he started his artistic experimentation – led Klone to explore issues of place and of belonging. These issues are now reexamined through a multidisciplinary installation work, which unfolds before the viewer as a collective quest. It is a journey both physical and visual moving in opposing states of darkness and light, revealed by a universal array of recognizable images which for that reason remain distant and obscure.

** Sound for the exhibition courtesy of Liron Meshulam

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