

# HEZI COHEN GALLERY

## Sigalit Landau

10.9.2015 – 24.10.2015

*Bad Wedding [Not Making a Living]*, 2015, Mixed media, 97x108x10 cm

*Daughter Slaughter [Sabres-Clonex]*, 2015 Mixed media, 108x97x10 cm

*Dreamer [On the Hills of Gilead]*, 2015, Mixed media, 108x97x10 cm

*Matryoshka Delivering Matryoshka [Staged]*, 2015, Mixed media, 97x108x10 cm

*Sand and Salt [Docked Ship]*, 2015, Mixed media, 97x108x10 cm

*Shit Man [Pavement]*, 2015, Mixed media, 97x108x10 cm

*Tortoise Daughter and Vengeance Mask [Sister of no Mercy]*, 2015 .Mixed media, 97x108x10 cm

*Unstaged / A Play Not Played* is a series of seven figurative wall reliefs created over the past two years by Landau in collaboration with writer and dramatist Oren Neeman. Incorporating a range of materials, from sand, clay and fabric to paper cutouts, organic materials and found objects, the dramatic cycle depicts scenes inspired for the most part by the life stories of two women from very different periods in history, the daughter of Jephthah (unnamed in the biblical story) and legendary Habima actress Hanna Rovina. Like the tragic biblical figure, who fell victim to her father's fateful vow, so was Rovina – who played the former in her first theatrical appearance as an amateur – forced to endure a father's forsaking: her father, upon learning of Rovina's theatrical aspirations, disowned her and never came to see her on stage, despite the huge acclaim she garnered.

Direct and frontal in their compositions, the collaged reliefs of *Unstaged* show visceral scenes partly based on the biblical text and partly Rovina's life and partly invented: the binding of Jephthah's daughter, Rovina's famed performance in *The Dybbuk* and the trials in her life, as well as themes drawn from the artist's own personal life. Two of the relief on view reference noted Israeli artists from Rovina's time, Reuven Rubin and Mark Chagall. Set in large window-like frames, like a set of miniature installations hung on the gallery walls, the series showcases to the viewer these exposed narratives of fury, defiance, disillusionment and regret.

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