

LOCAL STORIES

Meet Noa Yekutieli | Visual Artist

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We had the good fortune of connecting with Noa Yekutieli and we've shared our conversation below.

Hi Noa, how has your work-life balance changed over time?

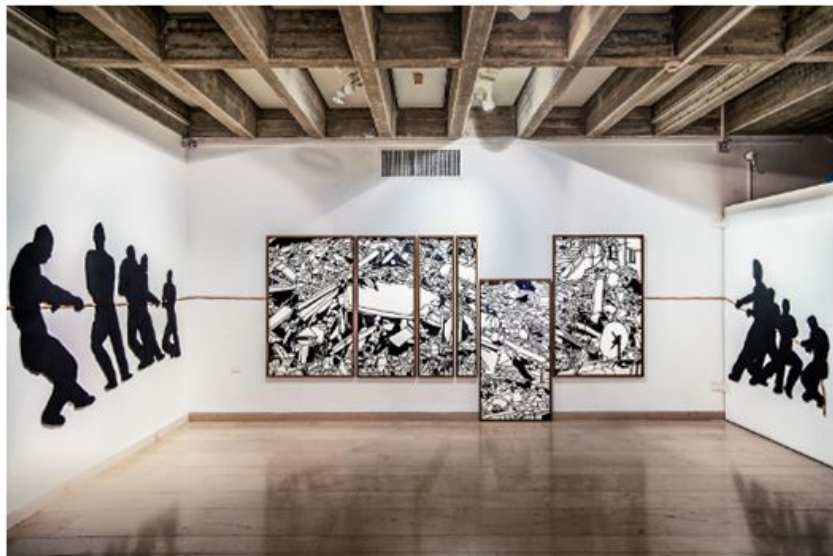
Balance is a keyword for me in the past few years. Growing up in Israel-Palestine, balance wasn't really an option and I didn't feel it was something I was aiming to achieve, I was more in the 'extreme' agenda. Growing older, understanding more how extreme the world we live in really is, seeing where the extreme approach is leading us, made me seek for balance as a priority in my personal life, in order to be able to be more effective when having the opportunity to evoke change. If we have the option, I think not burning ourselves from both ends of the candle can allow us to provide the fire for a longer duration. Balance allows me to use both sides of my brain, use both my mind and my body, have the time that I need to both create and reflect, I would say that balance for me is an equal relation between input and output. I feel that today, the world forces us to be in constant output, at a pace so fast, that sometimes we don't even have the time to deeply understand what we are outputting, that for me is a result of unbalance and can lead to unwanted extremes.



Alright, so let's move onto what keeps you busy professionally?

Since lockdown began in Los Angeles and without access to my studio, I found myself working from home. Beginning in April and ending in August, I created an installation titled 'The Chaos in Order' that slowly spread along the walls and ceiling of my home. Based on a photograph of my studio, the work is composed of hundreds of manual paper-cutting, digital photographs and cement sculptures. What began as a way to clock the days during quarantine grew into an immersive installation that reformed the room's dimensions, like a portal into a pseudo landscape.

While sheltering in place, the room underwent a complete transformation as the inside and outside began to merge. Photographs are juxtaposed along paper-cut images of upside down trees, collapsed ruins, troops, and abstract residue depict different scenes; like a tapestry that encompasses different points of tension while bearing witness to one historical event unfold. Various narratives are contained within a singular piece of paper, presenting a multi-layered reality; an artwork inside an artwork. The dichotomy between the digital process versus the laborious manual paper cutting technique strikes a tension between two modes of perception, a reflection on a world that became an image of its old self. False and real meet at the exact same point with neither being more true than the other as the authenticity of the source and it's copy become indecipherable.



If you had a friend visiting you, what are some of the local spots you'd want to take them around to?

Friends and family from out of town come a lot and I always think the nicest thing about LA is the variety. Going to chill at echo park, eat at small "holes in the wall" in K-town or Little Tokyo and enjoy the great art scene in town. Now, everything is a bit more challenging but the fact that we have such great outdoor spaces is definitely a big plus in these difficult days!

Who else deserves some credit and recognition?

My partner, Itamar Giladi. Tapping back into the balance method – Itamar is always there for me, reminding me of the importance of process and the possibility of presence within it. Itamar is a filmmaker, and therefore, he is more familiar with the long duration process of art-making than I am. Although my art is very intricate, as a studio-based artist, I am used to immediate physical interaction with material and so our artistic meeting point allows me to acknowledge the importance of patience in art and its creation. Sharing my life with an artist, especially from a different discipline, empowers me to grow deep and solid. As demanding and hectic as life can be for an artist, I'm thankful to have someone who can not only understand it but also identify with the time and space that art needs from us. I am grateful to have a partner I can share my unformed thoughts with, while still in process. As a visual artist, the form can present itself to me before its content, a very exciting experience, but also a highly isolating one. Being able to share these undefined moments with someone and knowing that aside from always being accepted, I'll also be challenged with a new thought that he would add to my mind while in that vulnerable space of time, is a huge privilege.

Website: noayekutieli.com

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