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The Law of the Pursuer

Amos Gitai

2017. essay exhibition. **Curatorial Team** Elena Agudio, Antonia Alampi, Abhishek Nilamber. **Commissioned by** SAVVY Contemporary.

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The Law of the Pursuer is an essay exhibition by Amos Gitai revolving around some of the issues and themes raised in his film, *Rabin, the Last Day* (2015), about the assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on 4 November 1995.

Featuring unreleased research material and film footage from Gitai's archive and collected over the course of the last twenty years, the exhibition's central piece is a new video installation with a performative element commissioned by SAVVY Contemporary questioning the shifting concept of democracy and addressing the problem of extremism and the current crisis of politics.

Resonating with the structure of the film, his installation is a whirlwind of discourse surrounding the terrible and confounding act of violence that took place in Tel Aviv, while also becoming a metaphor of the consequences of a polarized and poisonous atmosphere of political extremism. *The Law of the Pursuer* shows how inflammatory and fundamentalist language can instill violence and sow the seeds of brutality, it is an examination and a psychoanalytical portrait of a traumatized political context and society speaking to the one we are living in today.

Amos Gitai, born in 1950 in Haifa, Israel, is a filmmaker based in Paris and Haifa, mainly known for making documentaries and feature films dealing with the Middle East and the Jewish-Arab conflict. He holds a degree in Architecture from the Technion in Haifa and a PhD in Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley. In 1973, during the Yom Kippur War, Gitai had to interrupt his architecture studies as he was called up to reserve service as part of a helicopter rescue crew. While serving, he shot 8mm film footage of the fighting, claiming this served as his entry into the world of filmmaking. To date Gitai has created over 90 works of art over 44 years. His work has been presented in several major retrospectives and in film festivals around the world.

Films

1972: *Arts and Crafts and Technology* (9 min.), *Details of Architecture* (13 min.), *Black Is White* (4 min.), *Textures* (3 min.), *Geography According to Modern Man and His Control of the Environment* (4 min.), *Souk/Dialogues de femmes* (3 min.), *Windows in David Pinsky no.5* (4 min.), *Souvenirs d'un camarade de seconde Aliya* (8 min.), *Waves* (5 min.). 1973: *Fire Eats Paper, Paper Eats Fire* (3 min.), *Talking About Ecology* (11 min.), *Shosh* (7 min.). 1974: *Arlington USA* (2 min.), *Images of War 1, 2, 3* (10 min.), *Images After War/ Après* (3 min.), *Water* (3 min.), *Memphis USA: Faces* (5 min.), *Memphis USA: Suite* (4 min.), *Pictures in the Exhibition* (4 min.), *The International Orthodontist Congress* (4 min.), *Blowing Glass* (5 min.), *Lucie* (5 min.). 1975: *My Mother at the Sea Shore* (3 min.). 1976: *Charisma* (18 min.). 1977: *Dimitri* (17 min.), *Border* (12 min.), *Political Myths* (30 min.), *Public House* (23 min.), *Singing in Afula* (15 min.), *Under the Water* (18 min.). 1978: *Architectura* (13 min.), *Wadi Rushmia* (36 min.). 1979: *Cultural Celebrities* (50 min.), *Wadi Salib Riots* (40 min.). 1980: *In Search of Identity* (57 min.), *House* (51 min.). 1981: *American Mythologies Part 1: Rituals* (52 min.), *American Mythologies Part 2: Elsewhere (aka Selling Time)* (52 min.), *Wadi* (40 min.). 1982: *Field Diary* (83 min.). 1983: *Pineapple* (78 min.). 1984: *Bangkok-Bahrain/Labour for Sale* (78 min.), *Reagan: Image for Sale* (60 min.). 1985: *Esther* (97 min.). 1987: *Brand New Day* (93 min.). 1989: *Berlin-Jerusalem* (89 min.). 1990: *Birth of a Golem* (60 min.). 1991: *Wadi, Ten Years After* (97 min.), *Golem, the Spirit of Exile* (105 min.). 1992: *Metamorphosis of a Melody* (87 min.). 1993: *In the Valley of the Wupper* (90 min.), *Queen Mary '87* (90 min.), *The Petrified Garden* (87 min.), *The War of the Sons of Light Against the Sons of Darkness* (90 min.). 1994: *In the Name of the Duce* (60 min.), *Give Peace a Chance* (203 min.). 1995: *Devarim* (110 min.). 1996: *The Arena of Murder* (90 min.), *Milim* (87 min.), *Munio Weinraub Gitai Architect (1909-1970)* (32 min.). 1997: *War and Peace in Vesoul* (83 min.), *Kippur, War Memories* (120 min.). 1998: *Orange* (60 min.), *A House in Jerusalem* (87 min.), *Zion: Auto-Emancipation* (110 min.), *Yom Yom* (97 min.). 1999: *Kadosh* (110 min.). 2000: *Kippur* (120 min.). 2001: *Wadi Grand Canyon 2001* (90 min.), *Eden* (90 min.), *Surgeon General's Warning* (7 min.). 2002: *September 11 – 11'09'01* (11 min.), *Kedma* (100 min.). 2003: *Alila* (120 min.). 2004: *Promised Land* (90 min.). 2005: *Free Zone* (90 min.), *News from Home/News from House* (97 min.). 2007: *Disengagement* (115 min.), *The Dybbuk of Haifa* (3 min.). 2008: *One Day You'll Understand* (90 min.). 2009: *The War of the Sons of Light Against the Sons of Darkness* (101 min.), *Carmel* (93 min.). 2010: *Roses à crédit* (113 min.). 2011: *Lullaby to My Father* (87 min.). 2012: *The Book of Amos* (10 min.). 2013: *Ana Arabia* (85 min.), *Architecture en Israël: conversations avec Amos Gitai* (368 min.). 2014: *Tsili* (88 min.). 2015: *Rabin, the Last Day* (153 min.). 2016: *Reflections on Architecture*. 2017: *The Law of the Pursuer*.