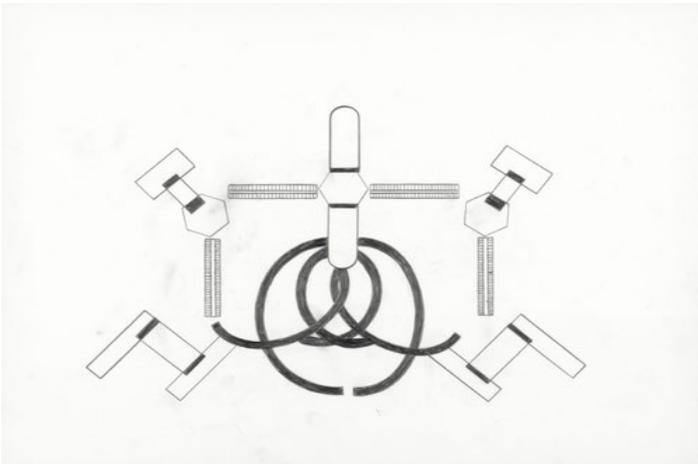


Ofri Cnaani and Nelly Agassi: Crippled Symmetry

In this two-person multimedia exhibition, two identical dark rooms project each artist's moving images and mechanical sounds

May 3 – August 1, 2015



Nelly Agassi, still from *NUMIMA*, 2015. Video with sound.



Ofri Cnaani, still from *Night Swim*, 2015. Multimedia installation.

JERSEY CITY, NJ, April 3, 2015—Mana Contemporary is pleased to announce a duo show with Ofri Cnaani and Nelly Agassi titled *Crippled Symmetry*. In this two-persons exhibition, two identical dark rooms immerse viewers with a pulsating audiovisual experience of moving images and mechanical sounds.

Nelly Agassi's animated drawings use the blue prints of mental institutions designed by Thomas Story Kirkbride as a departing point. "Using Kirkbride's original layout as inspiration, Agassi produces her own architectural plans employing the tools (rulers and design templates) and concerns (space and control) of architectural drawings," writes Abigail Winograd, research associate at Museum of Contemporary

Art Chicago. In this new series of short animations, Agassi's drawings become a sort of architectural Rorschach test alternately resembling masks, faces, and even the female reproductive system.

In the center of Ofri Cnaani's new installation is a room-size mirror tray filled with water, lying on a massive table, resembling the developing tray in a dark room. Slowly moving on the water's surface are dozens of archival images from a kibbutz where the artist was born and raised. Projectors are capturing, then projecting all over the room, the floating historical vignettes that keep traveling in the tray, with no predictable path, creating what the artist calls "accidental narratives".

Inspired by Morton Feldman's "Crippled Symmetry" music piece, the two artists work simultaneously, leaving visitors no indication of how and where they should synchronize or be read apart. The two rooms, drawing black-and-white personal notes from rigorous, yet defunct, living models, function like two machine rooms, or rather, a room of many wonders.

Ofri Cnaani is an artist and educator. Cnaani's solo exhibitions and performances include: Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC; PS1/MoMA, NYC; BMW Guggenheim Lab, NYC; The Fisher Museum of Art, L.A.; Twister, Network of Lombardy Contemporary Art Museums, Italy; Kunsthalle Galapagos, NYC; Andrea Meislin Gallery, NYC; Braverman Gallery, Tel Aviv; Pack Gallery, Milan; Haifa Museum of Art, Israel; Herzlyia Museum of Art, Israel. Group exhibitions include: Moscow Biennial; The Kitchen, NYC; Bronx Museum of the Arts, NYC; Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna; Arnolfini Foundation Museum, Bristol, UK; Tel Aviv Museum; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Prague Triennale. In 2015, she will present videos and performances at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Israel Museum in Jerusalem, and Inhotim Institute in Brazil, among others.

Nelly Agassi works in performance, installation, video and paper. Her artwork addresses the idea of the body and notion of intimacy within public space. Her work engages both the personal and emotional as well as universal concepts. Agassi is a 2001 graduate of the MA program of combined media in Chelsea Collage of Art and Design, London, UK. She has received the Nathan Gottesdiener Foundation for Israeli Art Prize and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art award for artistic encouragement from the Israel Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport. Agassi has shown her work extensively throughout the world – in sites such as the Israel Museum, Doritto Rovesscio, Milan Triennial, and at the Tate Modern in London.

About Mana Contemporary

Founded in 2011, Mana Contemporary is a leading arts destination dedicated to celebrating the creative process. Headquartered in a former tobacco warehouse in Jersey City, Mana unites artists' studios, exhibition spaces, and ancillary services in a single location, facilitating conversation and collaboration among its burgeoning creative community. Together with its sister campuses in Chicago and Miami, Mana serves as a lively center for all members of the art world. Visitors receive unparalleled access to a range of art-making techniques and presentations first-hand. A transparent, comprehensive hub of creativity, Mana offers a profound, personal approach to contemporary art. Mana Contemporary is home to the Richard Meier Model Museum, Gary Lichtenstein Editions, Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation, Armitage Gone! Dance, Keating Foundry, The Florence Academy of Art, Shen Wei Dance Arts, and many others. For additional information, please visit manacontemporary.com.