

## Darkness Clear as Daylight

/ Curator: Simcha Shirman

A work of art; a poem; matter and a viewing body meet in a gallery space as an exhibition. This could be a familiar start to a folktale or a legend. Such an opening, simply describing things as they are, raises questions as to who is "meeting" – as such a meeting can be either planned or random; and as to the further development of the story – its significance and the relations between the participants.

I am reminded of the words by Zen teacher Josho:

"If you ask what Josho teaches, say only – when it's cold, it's cold; and when it's hot, it's hot.

The poet Natan Alterman wrote:

"Not every line that hints

The city is a city, the street a street.

The light is light, the darkness as clear as daylight."

Josho and Alterman, East and West, are saying that we can accept things as they are and need not insist on finding hidden intentions and meanings. But what is that acceptance? What is cold, what is hot, what does 'clear as daylight' mean?

The poem continues:

"The city is a city though it is clear that sometimes

The city is man, the man is time and the time is summer."

Let us leave these things as they are, and get on with the story. I was recently introduced, at Bromide labs, to a new material and printing technique. It allows a photographic print to be made directly on aluminum (Metal Print). I was intrigued by this new option and curious to see how artists may creatively utilize this new technique in their artwork. I approached different artists and invited them to try integrating the technique into their work and into their unique visual language.

My love of poetry and my desire to create a quiet storm in the meeting of text and image led me to the poems of Hagit Grossman. Once she agreed to participate in this adventure; I asked the participating artists to choose one of her poems as a starting point for their work.

That is the idea. A clear idea. The clarity opens a space for the unexpected, the random. And the viewing body? The viewing body needs to partner with the sights and the sounds. It needs to see and to hear, to be open to an unending voyage in the streets of "Invisible Cities" (Italo Calvino) it needs to open, to take pleasure in the

03-6725124

info@artspacetlv.org

www.artspacetlv.org



cold and the heat, the light and the dark. And when the deep understanding that the cold is cold and the heat is hot and the light is light and the dark is dark is reached, the consciousness will be free to ask what is the light, What is the dark, What is the cold, What is the heat.

### **Someone Else/Hagit Grossman**

Everywhere a hole is filled

Any open space receives a sign

A word and a silence.

Anyone who stopped will say to stop

Anyone who stopped will say that it's impossible

To lean on it.

(Translated by Benjamin Balint)

Simcha Shirman, March 2016.

Translation of the text and Natan Alterman: Yoav Weiss

03-6725124

[info@artspacetlv.org](mailto:info@artspacetlv.org)

[www.artspacetlv.org](http://www.artspacetlv.org)

