

## **Gil & Moti exhibition tour 2011-2012**

Three Nordic art institutions Kunsthallen Nikolaj, Copenhagen, Rogaland Kunstmuseum, Stavanger and Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm have joined together with the Bochum Museum of Art in Germany and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv to create a joint exhibition with the Israeli/Dutch artist duo Gil & Moti.

Born in Tel Aviv, Gil & Moti moved to Rotterdam in 1998 after completing their studies at the Bezalel Art and Design Academy in Jerusalem and at The Slade School of Fine Art in London and the School of Visual Art in New York and they were awarded their masters degree in Fine Arts from the Piet Zwart Institute in Rotterdam.

After moving to the Netherlands they created their 'home gallery' in Rotterdam on the busy Witte de Witt Straat, where they immediately started to work with groups of people in the neighbourhood. They invited artists to exhibit in their gallery, where they also lived. Transparency and friendship have always been the underpinning themes of their work used to reveal underlying problems in society. The artists work in many different media, choosing the materials and working methods most suitable for each new project and situation. Over the few last years, after repeated visits to Israel, Gil & Moti noticed the increasing number of immigrants working as servants in the homes of Israelis. Before issues of security changed the situation, Palestinians used to work in Israeli homes, but they are now replaced by people from countries without any ongoing conflict with the Israeli state, such as Somalia and The Philippines.

'Kitchen Secrets' is an overall name for a series of paintings and graphic works on paper, depicting how the Israeli middle and upper class homes are cared for by imported labour. In the project 'Available for You', made in Denmark and The Netherlands between 2008 and 2009, the artists themselves worked as servants for Arab immigrants in Copenhagen and Rotterdam. The artworks of the project resulted in installations, drawings, diaries, paintings, photographs and videos. At the time of writing this document the whole world is in shock over the military attack on the 'Ship to Gaza'. Nine people were killed when Israeli forces boarded the ships in international water on the 31st of May 2010. At this time we still don't know what has happened to some of the activists who were taken prisoner or what the international consequences of the attack will be. Gil & Moti's peaceful and interactive art and working methods stand in stark contrast to such aggressive acts.

The exhibition circles around issues of how mankind creates dignity and empathy and how we can provide ourselves with the tools necessary for taking on the responsibility to build a heterogeneous society based in equality regardless of ethnic origin, sexual preference, gender or class. The exhibition will present works from twelve years of their recent production but will also contain new works that will be created with the communities in the different locations of the exhibition tour. The exhibition will be accompanied by seminars, artists' talks, a catalogue with texts written by international acknowledged authors and a huge number of images from over a decade of works by Gil & Moti.

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