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Title of article: “The snow train and the spring train has left the station”

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Body of text:

The video works, shot by Tom Pnini in the New England Railroad Museum, and are presented now at Chelouch Gallery in Tel-Aviv, reproduce the same rise in different seasons and in different contexts.

“They are like identical twins: the resemblance between them is huge, but the observer is clinging to the hallmarks that distinguish them from each other”, says Tom Pnini and gestures with his hands to a series of colleagues done based on old stereoscopic images of a train, in which he emphasized using watercolor the smoke cloud rising with its ride. On the situation that was documented with two cameras placed side by side, Pnini says:” I thought to myself about the photographic term “the decisive moment”, and about these photographs as two decisive moments.” On one wall projected the video work “ Ballade to the Double”, that is also the name of Pnini’s exhibition at Chelouch Gallery in Tel-Aviv (Mazeh 7). Here the same occurrence is projected in four channels next to each other, in them a train ride that was shot in the four seasons of the year. The video was shot during a year on the 35 km tracks of the train Museum located in New England, Connecticut. The same trail and the same scenery is projected to the viewer from the four channels- once full of snow, once blooming, once full of sunlight and once covered with Autumn leaves. There is an Impressionistic fill as we revisit the same place in every season. The train ride is being disrupted once in a while, due to the presence of a girl standing on the trains trail. This girl is busy with dreamy activities: transporting an antique toy locomotive over the real tracks or placing pennies on the tracks, so they could get smudged by the weight of the trains. The girl also plays a banjo- a remake of the famous scene from the movie “Deliverance” (1972), only instead of a duet between a boy and a man, the girl plays with herself, and in fact- with her doubles from the other three seasons. The ambitious project was hot with a limited crew, in heat and extreme cold of -15 degrees. The direct struggle with the forces of nature emphasizes the difference of this project from the other works Pnini made in the last year in his “Demo project”, in them he artificially created natural phenomena- such as thousands of snow flakes connected to miniature parachutes (“Snow Demo”, 2008). The last work Pnini made for the show is “Double Windsor”, in it projected a scene from Buster Keaton film, “The Goat”, along side a remake of the scene created by Pnini. A far away train is approaching the camera

until in a sudden stop the viewer can see a man sitting on it. In the 1921 movie it is Buster Keaton, who is sitting on the train, while in Pnini's remake it is Howard Pincus, the chair of the train museum, who made these two videos possible. Until the train's final stop the viewer is fearing the camera man (Pnini), who is standing in the middle of the train track, while shooting the ride (it is a similar fear that resembles the first movie screening from 1895, showing a train approaching to the frame).