

Yedioth

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Pnini's Pearl

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(translated from Hebrew into English)

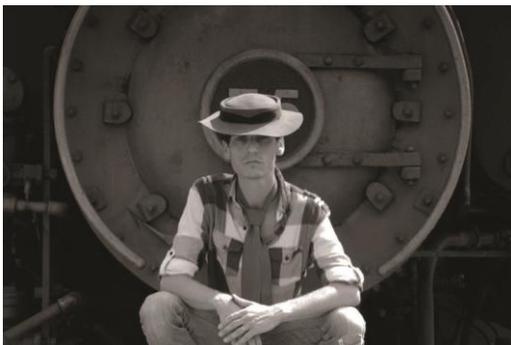


The Israeli artist Tom Pnini is celebrating 5 years of living and creating in NY with his first solo show, which invites the audience to a journey via train in all four seasons.

The noises from the Chinatown markets and the tumultuous neighborhoods of Manhattan, arrives all the way to Lesley Heller Workspace on Orchard street. But the noise doesn't penetrate the glass doors leading to the dark room, where only train sounds can be heard. The train, the subject of Tom Pnini's new exhibition, "Ballade to the Double," can be seen in four channels, riding through the quiet landscape of Connecticut in the four seasons of the year, thus making the same track seem as if it was a variety of tracks.

After his BED in art education, from Beit Berel, Pnini arrived to NY for his Master in Art at Parsons. The inspiration was to make video art, a subject Pnini received from his teachers in high school. "We had a wonderful mixture of teachers and students in the class that were fascinated with this genre, and I have been making video since I was 16."

His medium is usually sculpture and Video art, while he focuses on natural phenomena in which a human interference is present in them.



Tom Pnini, who has shown in various galleries in Moscow, United States, Italy and Canada, marks his first solo show in New-York.

The name of the exhibition is the same as the pivotal piece in the show – "Ballade to the Double." In the video, Pnini invites the audience to a short half an hour train ride on

the train track of the New England Railroad Museum. He challenges us to explore the similarity and the differences in the linear exploration that is projected in front of our eyes, a journey he filmed throughout an entire year.



In the extremely cold winter of 2012, Pnini arrived to Connecticut in order to find a specific plowing train and document it. After months of research, he found it with the help of Howard Pincus, the chair of the New England Railroad Museum, who let him rent the machine. Pnini returned after two weeks only to discover that nature intervened with his plans and the spring sun has done the job the plow was supposed to do. Pnini decided to change his idea and returned to the same location and document the change of season on the tracks. It's hard to contain in the first viewing everything that the beautiful scenery of Connecticut has to offer, so the repetitive cycles of watching the piece helps to rediscover a new world each time. In each time of the movies the same train goes over the same route, while the scenery change. Pnini admits that the piece is the result of the soul search he had when moving to the US. This was an attempt to do something different than the projects he used to do. "you need to get used to moving from a place you know everyone to a place you cant find two people to help you on a project." But it is on this specific project that Pnini was able to find more than two people to help him. Howard Pincus, The chair of the New England Railroad Museum, and his partner, who took Tom and his family under their wings and "adopted" him. Pnini also used the opportunity he had to reproduce a replica of one of his famous scenes, an approaching train from the Buster Keaton movie "The Goat" 1921. With the use of Pincus and an experienced train operator , the Israeli artist shot a moving train which stops in front of the camera with the portrait of Keaton (played by Pincus) sitting on top of the locomotive. The reproduced scene is projected in the gallery next to the original one, titled "Double Windsor".

"I think the life in NY gave me the option to work quietly before showing the work, to be anonymous, and to be alone with the piece. In Israel I am an artist, while here I am an Israeli artist, with all the complication of it." Next Fall Pnini plans to return to the train museum, this time with his son, who just started his own fascination with trains. The exhibition at the Lower east side has been exhibited in Israel at Chelouch gallery in Tel-Aviv and received positive reviews from the audience and the press. In Manhattan, the show will be on until October 12. An artist talk will be held October 11 at 4:30pm.