

AMIR FATTAL



Untitled (2015), Industrial dust, raw pigment and lacquer on aluminum , 106 x 71cm

In an untitled series of large silkscreens made with dust, pigment and lacquer printed on sheet aluminium, Fattal has focuses on images of recent acts of cultural desecration and destruction as they have been depicted throughout the Arab media, often using film supplied by the perpetrators themselves. As a counterpoint to this destructive orgy, not without irony, the series also includes a magnificent example of western conservation: the double headed lion from the Ishtar Gate in Berlin. For Fattal, this example of nineteenth-century cultural booty safely preserved from those who would now destroy it, presents a lively paradox: this regal, heroic heraldic image could also suggest a less admirable two-facedness that the West has often shown in its transactions in this region and continues to manifest in its cultural relations.

Throughout the diverse aspects of his multi-media practice, Amir Fattal's work highlights present events and attitudes in reference to historical images or narratives. Both as silent witnesses and repositories of memory, Fattal appropriates and adapts chosen examples of previous art, architecture, photography or music as disruptive 'objects' in order to create an aesthetic unease out of which patterns of behavior or archetypal responses may be extrapolated. Fattal's images and objects may, on first sight, seem innocent yet, when reproduced within the framework of his abiding concern with the fragility of life and culture, their associations become redolent of either barbarism or mortality; sometimes of both at the same time. In this respect he has become a protagonist of the cultivation and exposition of what could be described as memory subsumed within the continuing life of objects: fragments of the past living on and transformed by the present. His Jewish-Iraqi descent (both his parents were born in Baghdad, and he is first generation Israeli), as well as his current life as an artist in Berlin, have heightened a sense of tension that runs throughout his work, balancing delicately between the necessities for atonement and reconciliation.



The work shown in *Points of Resistance* is part of a body of work in which Fattal focuses on the systematic cycles of destruction of historical and religious monuments that have characterised warfare in the Middle East, Afghanistan and North Africa over the past twenty years. The propensity for iconophobia and iconoclasm (as well as for their opposite, iconolatry) has been present in the three monotheistic religions (Christianity, Islam and Judaism) since their inception and has recurred periodically throughout their histories as part of a broader ideological struggle for power. Recent manifestations of this struggle, however, particularly those perpetrated by Islamic groups, have demonstrated a strong, almost theatrical, media awareness in which destruction represents not so much a tool of ideology but, under the pretext of obliterating blasphemy, embodies the desire to eclipse both history and memory by shaming and denying them at the same time, rather in the same way that marauding soldiers violently rape the people they vanquish. In these works, the rape of memory is Fattal's main subject. His meditations on loss and memory expose how victory is currently expressed by destruction and how these historical monuments have become ideological battlegrounds.

BIO

Amir Fattal was distinguished with the GASAG Art Prize in 2008 and graduated from Universität der Künste, Berlin, in 2009. Based in Berlin to this day, Fattal participated in numerous international group exhibitions. Acclaimed solo exhibitions include: *Mesopotopography*, Anna Jill Lüpertz Gallery, Berlin (2015); *From the End to the Beginning*, Kunstquerrier Bethanien, Berlin (2014); *Parallel Lines*, Teapot Gallery, Cologne, Germany (2013); *Goral Ehad*, St-art, Tel Aviv, Israel (2012); *Shadow of Smoke Rings on the Wall*, Artitude Kunstverein, Berlin (2011); *Tomorrow Gets Me Higher*, Wilde Gallery, Berlin (2010). Selected group exhibitions include: Collection Enea Righi, Museo Fortuny, Venice (2016); *Interior / Exterior / Sculpture*, Belenius/Nordenhake Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden (2015); *A Naked Singularity*, Studio Garaicoa, Madrid, Spain (2015); *Fragments of Empires*, MOMENTUM, Berlin (2014-15); *A Letter From Dr. Faustus*, Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Israel (2014); Fundación Botín, Villa Iris, Santander, Spain (2014); *Dahlstrøm & Fattal*, Beers Lambert Contemporary, London (2013); *III Moscow International Biennale for Young Art*, Moscow, Russia (2012); *Body Without Body*, Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin (2011). Fattal is also curator and initiator of *Tape Modern Berlin*, an acclaimed series of group exhibitions featuring emerging and established artists.

Fattal is a conceptual artist whose practice is one of historical reflection grounded in the history of aesthetics and cultural schisms. Working in the media of video, photography, sculpture, and installation, his work forms a focused response to the diverse questions raised by his adoptive city of Berlin, where the memory, culture, architecture, indeed every thread in the fabric of this city is problematized by its history.

CV

Education:

2007-2009 Meisterschueler Bildende kunst, UdK Berlin – Prof. Sieverding.

2003-2007 Absolventen Bildende kunst, UdK Berlin – Prof. Katharina Sieverding, Prof. Hito Steyerl, Prof. Stan Douglas.

2005 Scholarship Exchange Program, The School of the Art Institute, Chicago.

Prizes:

2019 Projektförderung, Berlinerssenat, Berlin

2013 Push Your Art Prize, (short listed), Palais de Tokyo, Paris

2012 Berlinerssenat Solo Catalog Prize

2010 Berlinerssenat Work Prize (Arbeitsstipendium Bildende kunst).

2008 GASAG Foeredepreis, Berlinische Galerie.

2005 UdK Scholarship Exchange Program. – The School of the Art Institute, Chicago.

Solo Exhibitions:

2015 'Mesopotopography', Anna Jill Lüpertz Gallery, Berlin

2014 'From the End to the Beginning', Kunstquerrier Bethanien, Berlin

2013 'Parelle Lines', Teapot Gallery, Cologne

2012 'Goral Ehad' St-art collection Tel Aviv Solo exhibition

2011 'Shadow of Smoke Rings on the Wall', Artitude Kunstverein Berlin

2011 'The Last Picture', Teapot Gallery, Cologne.

2010 'Tomorrow Gets me Higher', Wilde Gallery Berlin 2010 – "The Last Time I Was Here", The Apartment, Berlin.

2008 'Sunset Rising' Teapot Gallery, Cologne.

2007 'Private Dancer', AA gallery, London.

Selected Group Exhibitions:

2016 'Collection Enea Righi, Museo Fortuny, Venice

2016 'Universum' International Photography festival, Israel

2016 'Printage' Kunstquerrier Bethanien, Berlin

2016 ID festival Radialsystem, Berlin



- 2015 'Wo der Ort beginnt,' Kunsthaus Dahlem
- 2015 'Dear Darkness' Michael Fuchs Galerie, Berlin
- 2015 'Interior / Exterior / Sculpture', Belenius/Nordenhake Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2015 'A Naked Singularity', Studio Garaicoa, Madrid, Spain
- 2014 'Fragments of Empires', Momentum, Berlin
- 2014 'A Letter From Dr. Faustus', Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Israel
- 2014 'Hausbesetzung', Nassauischen Kunstverein, Wiesbaden
- 2014 Workshop Carlos Garaicoa, Fundación Botín, Villa Iris, Santander, Spain
- 2013 Riss, Hengesbach Gallery Berlin
- 2013 DAHLSTRØM & FATTAL, Beers.Lambert Contemporary, London
- 2012 Moscow International Biennale for young art, Moscow.
- 2012 '2112' Group exhibition, The Artists House, Tel Aviv.
- 2012 'Architecture as Human Nature, Supermarkt, Berlin.
- 2011 'Body without body' Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin.
- 2011 'Berliner Zimmer Genossen' Funkhaus Berlin.
- 2011 'The beauty in seduction' MK Gallery Berlin. 2011 – 'I'm the Antenna' MINKEN & PALME, Berlin.
- 2011 'Metrospective 1.0' Program Gallery Berlin.
- 2011 'Selected artists' NGBK Berlin.
- 2010 "Saccharine" curated by Ana Finel Honigman, Grimmuseum, Berlin.
- 2010 "Statics and the movement in between", MK Galerie Berlin.
- 2010 "Are you coming too?" September Gallery Berlin.
- 2010 "Three Man show" Fabrice Gygi, Brock Enright and Amir Fattal, COMA Gallery, Berlin.
- 2010 "Source / Resource" Group exhibition at Wilde Gallery Berlin.
- 2010 "In fifteen minutes everybody will be famous", Group exhibition curated by Anna Erickson, Tape Modern, Berlin.
- 2009 "First Service" Group exhibition curated by Joerg Leidig, Schwules Museum Berlin.
- 2009 "Take a Breath" Group exhibition curated by Sthephan Koehler, MK-Gallery, Berlin. 2009 – "Neun Arten von Gelände", Group exhibition curated by Erik Niedling and Amir Fattal, Tape, Berlin.



- 2009 "Earthly Delights", Group exhibition curated by Anna Erickson, Tape Modern, Berlin.
- 2009 "Dark Side II", Group exhibition curated by Urs Stahel, Fotomuseum Winterthur.
- 2009 "Berlin", Group exhibition curated by Antje Engelmann and Amir Fattal, Tape Berlin.
- 2009 "Das Unheimliche" Group exhibition curated by Florian Müller-Klug, Berlin.
- 2009 "Outside", Group exhibition curated by Avi Feldman and Amir Fattal at Tape Berlin.
- 2009 " PLA(T)FORM 09", Fotomuseum Winterthur.
- 2009 "Darkrooms – Homme Made", Group exhibition curated by Avi Feldman, Daneyal Mahmood Gallery, NY.
- 2009 "BLACK", Group exhibition at Tape Berlin.
- 2008 "GASAG Kunstpreis", Berlinische Galerie, Berlin.
- 2008 "German Angst", Group exhibition curated by Marius Babias at NBK, Berlin.
- 2008 "Transsgresive Body", Group exhibition Curated by Thomas Grundmann at Tape Berlin.
- 2008 "Just Different" Group exhibition at the Cobra Museum Amstelveen, Curated by Frank Wagner.
- 2008 Tel Aviv Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Solo program, Tel Aviv, Israel.
- 2008 "Tape Modern number 04", Group exhibition at Tape Berlin.
- 2008 video screening at Apex Gallery, NY.
- 2008 "Tape Modern number 03", Artist and Curator. Group exhibition at Tape Berlin.
- 2008 " Tape Modern number 02", Artist and Curator. Group exhibition at Tape Berlin.
- 2008 "Destruction Construction", Group exhibition, Teapot Gallery, Cologne.
- 2008 "Tape Modern number 01", Artist and Curator. Group exhibition at Tape Berlin.
- 2007 D 21, Group exhibition, Leipzig.
- 2007 "Snieze", Group exhibition, AA-Galleries, London.
- 2007 2nd Post Porn Politics Film Festival, Berlin.
- 2007 "The gunslinger and other true stories", group exhibition at AA-Galleries, Berlin.
- 2007 „Absolventen Ausstellung“ UdK, Berlin.