

FREE Information sheet. Please take one.

Yaakov Israel

The Quest for the Man on the White Donkey

18 January to 13 April 2013

Israel and its surrounding territories have been an area of dispute since the country's establishment in 1948. In this timely and relevant exhibition, Yaakov Israel takes us on a photographic journey across a complex land, offering a personal viewpoint of the nation that shares his name.

Taking inspiration from the American tradition of journeys made by photographers such as Robert Frank and Stephen Shore, Yaakov photographed the people and sights he encountered during many years of repeated wandering. The exhibition's title was inspired by a chance meeting with a Palestinian man who rode past whilst Yaakov was photographing near the Dead Sea. He says, 'it was only after developing the photographic plate that I realised I had encountered my 'Messiah': in Orthodox Jewish tradition, the Messiah (the Prophet) will arrive riding on a white donkey'.

Yaakov's images reveal a diverse range of people and places. His portraits feature Jews and Muslims; Arabs and Israelis; students and soldiers; children and homeless people. Whilst his landscapes frequently show neglected or abandoned spaces, such as an overgrown swimming pool in the Northern Judean Desert, others portray moments of tranquility and beauty, such as gathering herbs in Haifa. Jerusalem-based Yaakov says, 'part of my identity as an Israeli is to question everything, not to take anything for granted, to show the tensions that constantly exist'.

To find out more, browse the reading area or come along to our free Artist Talk and book signing with Yaakov Israel at 2pm on Saturday 16 February 2013. The publication *The Quest For the Man on the White Donkey* is available from the Shop at £29.99.

Yaakov Israel (Jerusalem, 1974) lives and works in Israel. He graduated in 2002 from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem and has since taught photography at several art and photography institutions in Israel. He has exhibited in museums and galleries internationally including in the USA, Italy and the UK. His photographs have featured in journals including *TIME LightBox* (USA), *Photo District News* (USA), *hotshoe* (UK) and *PRIVATE* (France). He won the PHotoEspaña Descubrimientos (New Discoveries) PHE12 Award (2012) for *The Quest for the Man on the White Donkey*, where the jury panel included Impressions' Director Anne McNeill. Yaakov is represented by Margaret Street Gallery in London and by Oslo8 in Basel. www.yaakovisrael.com

Exhibition courtesy of Margaret Street Gallery, London