

GALERIE NATHALIE OBADIA

PARIS - BRUXELLES

LUC DELAHAYE

Sūmud et autres histoires

February 7th - March 31st, 2018

18, rue du Bourg-Tibourg, 75004 - Paris



Luc Delahaye, *Sumud*, 2017
Tirage chromogène numérique, 185 × 249 cm

Galerie Nathalie Obadia is very pleased to announce Luc Delahaye's third solo show entitled *Sūmud et autres histoires* (*Sūmud and other tales*). On this occasion, the artist presents seven photographs and one video made in Palestine between October 2015 and March 2017.

“Two young men seat in silence under a tree. In a shared taxi, a woman holds her child on her knees. Five thousands workers go through a checkpoint and start their day. A set of hands during a *shahid* funeral ritual. A child tries to make his donkey step back. Shadows and silhouettes reenact the primitive fight. Two kids are perched on an olive tree. Minuscule figurines evolve in a landscape stratified by history.

These are scenes from Palestine. They were shot with a cellphone or a view camera made for the occasion. They were taken on the spot or patiently reconstructed with models.

In these large format photographs the outside reality of Palestinian life only appears indirectly. It is the framework that gives the images their severity but it doesn't constitute their subject matter. What they capture is, rather, a *feeling*.

How is it to be young in Palestine today? How to find one's place in a country that only exists through memory and in the common consciousness of a duty? The responsibility to carry on with the resistance is a shared heritage and goes against the desire to make a life for oneself. It is not easy to live according to the *sūmud*.

Sūmud: steadfast perseverance. It means: *being there*, to hold up in those dire circumstances and daily humiliations, to assert one's identity and presence. The *sūmud* is, at the core of the Palestinian national consciousness, a resistance strategy to the occupation as well as a concrete philosophy. It is an attitude. It relates to suffering, but not as an end: freedom and justice are its horizon. And it is a discipline: the *sāmūd* fuels the fire of his inner rage without showing any sign of it. He controls himself.

So, two young men are seating under a tree, away from the group. They take a break from the role one has to play with others. It is the time for friendship, the time for words softly pronounced in trust. However, they seem absent to one another, as if separately shut up in silence and agitated by the return of bitter thoughts of loss, absence and impossibility, a Palestinian version of the *blues*."

Luc Delahaye

The *Eyal Checkpoint* video will also be presented in Paris during the exhibition *En suspens* at Le Bal from February 9th to May 13th, 2018.

Paris Bourg-Tibourg

Luc Delahaye

Sūmud et autres histoires

February 7th - March 31st

Agnès Varda

April 14th - May 21st

Carole Benzaken

June 7th - July 21st

Paris Cloître Saint-Merri

Eugène Leroy and Sarkis

Intérieurs

January 12th - March 17th

Jérôme Zonder

April 7th - May

Corentin Canesson

Espace II

BOTTOM

January 12th - February 15th

Bruxelles

Wang Keping

Simplicité - Nature - Sensualité

January 26th - March 31st

Joris van de Moortel

April 18th - June 9th

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