

# Nezaket Ekici and Shahar Marcus

TBQ

3 channel video Trilogy



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<http://www.shaharmarcus.com>

<http://vimeo.com/shaharmarcus/videos/sort:plays>

<http://bravermangallery.com/artists/shahar-marcus/>



\*Nezaket Ekici (Turkey/Germany\_ born 1970) works in her Performances, Installation and Videos with the theme of double culture, German and Turkish, religion, politics, culture, art history, site specific and daily live situation. Ekici has been presenting her work in national and international exhibitions since 2000: Museum Haus der Kunst in Munich; The Irish Museum of Modern art in Dublin; 25. May Museum Belgrade; PAC Milano; Venice Biennale; P.S.1 New York; Van Gogh Museum Amsterdam; Reina Sophia Museum, Madrid; Museum of Contemporary Art, Istanbul; The Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei/ Taiwan; Poznan Biennale; Curiciba Biennale; Tel Aviv Museum of Art; Istanbul Modern; Marta Herford; Minsheng Art Museum Shanghai; Haus am Waldsee Berlin; KunstWerke Berlin; Oslo Museum; The Contemporary Art Gallery of Georgia, Georgia National Museum , Tbilisi; Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow,

Her works includes mainly performance, video and installation. She presented more than 200 different performances in over 50 countries, more than 120 cities on 4 continents.

\*Shahar Marcus (Israel 1971) is an interdisciplinary artist who works primarily in video, performance and installations. Marcus has exhibited at various art- institutions, both in Israel and around the world, including: The Tate Modern; MoCA Hiroshima, Japan; The Hermitage, Russia; The Israel Museum; Tel Aviv Museum of Art; Charlottenburg, Copenhagen- Kunsthalle; Moscow Biennale; Poznan Biennale; Moscow Museum of Modern Art; Paris-Beijing Gallery, France; Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany; Benaki Museum, Greece; Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow, Poland; MAXXI, Italy and at other art- venues in Poland, Italy, Germany, Georgia, Japan, the USA and Turkey.

### **The Artists:**

The two artists Nezaket Ekici and Shahar Marcus work together since 2012 in collaboration, calling their overall project „In Relation“. Within that time, several works have been realized and shown in exhibitions worldwide. Both artists are working amongst others as well on religious topics. Shahar grew up with Jewish religion, Nezaket with Muslim religion and is as well connected with the Christian religion by being married to a German catholic.

### **Geniza, still image from video, 8:42 min, 2017**

According to Jewish law, outdated and unreadable holy books have to be stored in a place, called "Geniza" (persian „ginzakh“ = "treasury"), which was usually a room attached to a synagogue or a hole in the ground to hide away unreadable holy books. Can a holy book lose its holiness? All great religions relating to Abraham (Jewish, Christian, Islam) give the same answer to this question: A holy book will be holy in eternity. Therefore holy books can not easily be thrown away but need special treatment.

'Geniza', was produced in December 2016, in a forest near Tel Aviv and address the Jewish religion through the ancient custom of Geniza. The work deals with the ritual that books that were thrown in pirate caves under the pretext of Geniza undergo a process of restoration, so that at the end they are returned to their original purpose and their glory is restored; Forming a shrine under the stars.



Geniza, still image from video, 8:42 min, 2017



### **La scala, still image from video, 5:30, 2017**

La Scala was produced in May 2017 in Rome. The artists use elements of the catholic religion in the video work: they walk on their knees on steps as pilgrims do at the Santa Scala in Rome in order to get near to Jesus; they mount mirrors to their backs as done in ancient times to reflect the image of Maria into the sky; they use bibles on a red carpet and incense to bless outdated bibles.

"During middle ages, the pilgrim, once arrived to to the relic holy site, will take out of his robes a covered mirror. He will then revel it to reflect the relic then take it back to his home. When arriving to this land, he will then reveal again the mirror and reflect back the holy vision he believed was kept of the relic. The artists return to this ancient tradition and collect the holy books while reflect their divinity to the sky as they progress on their knees towards the church of Santa La Scala."



La scala, still image from video, 5:30, 2017



## **Sea of Life, still image from video, 8:30 min., 2017**

Istanbul was specifically chosen for three main reasons: the primary one lies in Turkey's geographical location- the Bosphorus as a connection between east and west; from a historical and social stand point Turkey was ruled by the Byzantine kingdom, one of Christianity's strongholds, it was later conquered and ruled by Islamic occupation only to be reborn as modern day Turkey under Ataturk who separated state from religion; however, in recent years, Turkey is moving back towards Islamic influence.

Marcus and Ekici perform one final act – they fill buckets of water extracted from the aquariums and sail in a rowboat to the far out sea, where they pour the water back into the sea by which symbolically they pour the spirituality of the books into the sea.



Sea of Life, still image from video, 8:30 min., 2017



