

A Cinematic Gaze

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I started writing this text a few months ago by reflecting on Doron Adar's landscapes as movie scenes - as a search for absorbing the essence of nature. The text was still in progress, and with the emergence of the coronavirus as a global concern, resulting in our immersion in what felt like a surreal, apocalyptic movie, my ability to find order in my words and fully seize the cinematic metaphor seemed to have vanished. Only after weeks of intensive work painting in my studio, some form of sanity returned, and a new routine emerged. And with it, the ability to put into words the power of Doron Adar's cinematic scenes.

"I heard the news today oh boy!!" became an inner daily mantra for me in light of each day's grim news. Providing a counterbalance to the horrors of the pandemic, Doron Adar's works in the days of "keeping 100 meters of distance" are a beacon of hope. A healing scene of a beautiful, pure world. Of cinematic scenes and spaces, we want to inhabit. Places that we know exist because he has documented them and witnessed them for us.

Doron Adar breathes Mother Earth, understands her rhythm, and manages to connect deeply with her synergy through his camera. Texture, refined nuances of colors, soft or dramatic chiaroscuros are treated with extreme sensibility. Capturing the scenes and converting them into light marks on (digital) film. Matter and anti-matter become characters in his compositions. Through Adar's lens, a stone, a tree, a flying bird, a flower, a root, a cloud, a running river, a single house are all eloquently transformed into the main protagonist, a hero singing his opera aria, while the surroundings become the chorus line, or maybe the scenography... listening, standing still, waiting... alive with energy; potentially on the verge of reacting. Details of blades of grass, tracks in the snow or a single rock take center stage. The air is present. The monumental landscapes remind us of the immensity of open spaces – whether it's the desert, the beaches, the forest, the fields, the sky, or the sea.

Adar's photographs provide windows of sensation that open up into cinemascopic realities. Landscapes curated with detail, tell stories without words. Intrinsic dialogues with movie directors echo in his photographs: Antonioni's "Blow Up" concepts of a world that expands and shrinks, exists and does not exist are reflected in Adar's works as he enlarges details that might be ignored at first glance. Doron Adar focuses on pebbles that become as important as a whole mountain (See "Desert Veins" & "Shreds of a Moment"). Another example, Antonioni's "Zabrizkie Point" portrays vast desert panoramas which are a clear influence on Adar's photographs of open spaces, where the sensuality of the curves and the substance of the materials come to life (See "Curves"). One can find the influence of Bertolucci's "The Sheltering Sky" in the unique glow of the ochres of dust, sand, earth that Adar captures (See "A Whale in the Meadow"). Hiroshi Teshigahara's "Woman in the Dunes" esthetics of the softness and sensuality of the sand, of a drop of water or sweat, resonate in Adar's photography.

An observer of life and art, with years of experience and armed with a camera, Doron Adar has the knowledge to fine-tune his inner self, blending into the environment and becoming one with nature to capture its essence. The place calls to him and he knows how to listen through a process of respect and awe. Once captured, the work continues to the computer "darkroom" where the photos are "developed" (processed), and to the printing "lab" for the finale. Adar's work bridges sensation to impression and light into matter through a pigmented archive paper image. Our eyes touch the scenes that became eternal through his precise clicks.

Therefore, in these coronavirus days, these images are more than ever a testimony of the beauty of our planet, its energy. Adar's art enables us to escape the restrictions of covid-19 isolation – to feel a part of our surroundings, to be involved, to be witnesses and to get us charged up by their majestic beauty.

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