

Yael Bartana



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REFERENCE MONOGRAPH

This first monograph dedicated to the work of Yael Bartana (*1970 in Kfar Yehezkel, Israel; lives and works in Amsterdam, Berlin, and Tel Aviv) gives a comprehensive overview of the artist's films, installations, performative projects, photographs, and sound works of the past 15 years.

From Bartana's early video vignettes to her most recent project "What if Women Ruled the World?" (2017), by way of her monumental trilogy "And Europe Will Be Stunned" (2007–2011) with which she represented Poland at the 54th Venice Biennale, the book highlights the artist's fascination with the ways in which social rituals shape both individual identities and collective memory. Far from a mode of direct documentation, Bartana's works are themselves modeled on the aesthetics of the ritual, and are therefore, above all, performative works, which unapologetically seduce us. Her films draw attention to the fact that cinema is a ritual, and that the camera, perhaps better than any other device, mimics the ritualistic in its ability to fetishize, seduce, and draw us into the ceremony we are watching.

Essays by Emmanuel Alloa (Research Leader in Philosophy at the University of St. Gallen and Lecturer in Aesthetics at the University of Paris 8-Saint Denis), Nora M. Alter (Professor of Comparative Film and Media at Temple University, Philadelphia), Juli Carson (Professor at the University of California, Irvine, Director of the Critical and Curatorial Studies Program and The University Art Galleries) and Gil Z. Hochberg (Professor of Comparative Literature and

Gender Studies at UCLA), and an extensive interview with the artist by Erika Balsom (Senior Lecturer in Film Studies and Liberal Arts at King's College, London) offer new insights into Bartana's practice.

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