



Demonstration 1, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 200X60 (detail)

"The city ... does not tell its past, but contains it like the lines of a hand, written in the corners of the streets, the gratings of the windows, the banisters of the steps ..., every segment marked in turn with scratches, indentations, scrolls"

Italo Calvino, *Le città invisibili* (*Invisible Cities*), translated by W. Weaver

Ami Shinar is attracted to rough, scratched, shabby places, eroded by time. He looks at the cracks engraved into them, the flaws and corroding process that fascinate him just as much, if not more, than the designed walls of his new buildings, perhaps even more so.

As an architect, Shinar aims at achieving unique architectural creations, as well as restoring dilapidated spaces, be they a single building or an urban complex. "After all, while the city is a huge architectural compound; still, every building encapsulates urbanity", says Shinar. This duality is the key to his work, both artistic and architectural.

Shinar often wanders around Tel Aviv, his hometown, where he lives and works. He walks along its diverse neighborhoods, exploring the less flashy ones: dilapidated streets, with their "transparent" residents, mostly migrant workers and refugees. Tel Aviv is undergoing a transformation rapidly; dozens of new, extravagant towers cast shadows over the old fabric of the "White City" with its many Bauhaus buildings. One can't help wondering about the future of its unique character.

In some of Shinar's elongated tall format canvases, he leads the viewer's eye up and down from the texture of the Bauhaus buildings to the newly built faceless obelisks towering behind. Shinar tries to capture the soul of the place, the small street shops with peddlers, and craftsmen who may soon disappear from the urban scene. These are reflected in his paintings, piled up with large brushstrokes of multi-layered acrylic paint, at times scratched or damaged, while in his delicate watercolor works, the artist depicts people's faces, inviting the viewer to an intimate encounter.

In his political series Shinar describes a city square during an anti-government demonstration. This multitude of figures is his embodiment of the free urban spirit.



Tel Aviv with 3 towers, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 180X120



Demonstration following "Handmaids Tale", 2023
Oil on paper, 30 x 21



Rabin Square Demonstration 3, 2021
Acrylic on canvas, 70 x 50



Lillienblum Street, 2020, Acrylic on canvas, 180 x 60



Ahad Haam Street, 2022, acrylic on canvas, 120X100



Ami Shinar Website

Mann-Shinar Architects.

Along with his artistic work, Ami Shinar and his partner Amir Mann (Mann Shinar Architects) create their architectural vocabulary, based on local materials with an eye to the world. They believe in transformation – preservation and innovation, complement and contrast. This duality is reflected in their projects: Ramon International Airport, stretching in Israel's Negev desert like a white mirage; the National Library of Israel (in collaboration with Herzog & de Meuron), a monolith of stone planted in the rocky landscape of Jerusalem; the Azrieli Center in Rishon Lezion that rises as a spatial origami; HP Campus, in dialogue with

high-tech language; Sderot's train station emerging from the ground like some earthly creature; Haifa's new Waterfront, transforming old port docks into a new vivid site, to name a few.

This exhibition presents only a glimpse at the architectural oeuvre of Mann-Shinar Architects, yet it reveals this duality in Shinar's work – the twofold expression of the weathered and the new; Art and Architecture, each on its own, yet inseparable.



Mann Shinar Website



Z Design Building, Holon, Mann-Shinar Architects



Azrieli Mix-Use, Mann Shinar Architects



Shenkar Academy Fashion School, Mann Shinar Architects



Ramon International Airport, Mann-Shinar Architects (in collaboration with Moshe Zur)



National Library of Israel, Mann Shinar Architects in collaboration with Herzog & de Meuron



Sderot Train Station, Mann Shinar Architects

Trans + Formation

Ami Shinar,
Artist and Architect
+
Mann Shinar
Architects

Curators:
Ermanno Tedeschi, Vera Pilpoul

TIME-SPACE-EXISTENCE 2023

VENICE BIENNIAL
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20 May 2023 until 26 November 2023

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Strada Nuova 3659, 30121 Venezia



Mann Shinar Website



Carlbach Street, 2020, Acrylic on canvas, 180x60