

ASPECT / RATIO

Press Release:

ASPECT RATIO

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GILAD RATMAN

Friday, September 21 – Friday, October 26, 2012

Opening reception for the artist: Friday, September 21st, from 6 to 9pm

Aspect Ratio is pleased to present as its inaugural exhibition, the US premiere of Gilad Ratman's new work, *The Days of the Family of the Bell*.

Ratman's videos and multidisciplinary work challenge traditional storytelling conventions by intentionally mixing the imaginary and the surreal within the world of nonfiction. The work resists and challenges customary acting practices, choosing to problematize a viewer's understanding of what it means to perform for the camera.

The Days of the Family of the Bell advances Ratman's investigation of performance and the impossibility of deciphering the real from the make believe. Using the camera to subvert traditional narrative techniques and to create a gravity-defying spectacle, Ratman's video draws inspiration from cinema's earliest moments. In 1907, before the advent of sound and before the invention of Hollywood, Segundo de Chomón's short film, *Les Kiriki*, shared with audiences an acrobatic feat. Ratman collaborates with professionals, amateurs and friends to re-imagine Chomón's vision and in doing so, shows us a world where the 'poetic and pathetic coexist.'

Gilad Ratman lives and works in Tel Aviv and New York City. He is the recipient of the Anselm Keifer Prize and a Jerome Foundation grant. His work was included in PS 1/MoMA's 2010 group show, "Greater NY." In 2010, Ratman had a solo show, "How soon is now," at the Garage Center for Contemporary Art. Upcoming shows include: "UNNATURAL," at the Bass Museum of Art. In 2013, Ratman will represent Israel at the 55th Annual Venice Biennale curated by Massimiliano Gioni.

Ratman's work is included in many permanent collections, including: the Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago, Haifa Museum, Tel Aviv Museum, and the American University Museum.

Ratman's work is exhibited courtesy of Braverman Gallery, Tel Aviv.