

Ventilator

Exhibition: **Amit Levinger**

Collar Bird | ציפור ציפור

Reception: Thursday, February 8th, 8pm | Dates: February 8th – February 17th | 8 Hasharon St. Tel Aviv, IL
by appointment only

Ventilator Gallery is pleased to announce the opening, on Thursday, February 8th, of *Collar Bird*, Amit Levinger's solo exhibition.

When the seagulls follow the trawler, it is because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea

- Eric Cantona

In the last decade Amit Levinger was mostly showing kinetic sculptures, videos and installations. The works dealt with jammed mechanisms and unfulfilling apparatuses. However, over this period of time the artist also painted extensively. The paintings, that until today did not receive much attention, are the subject of *Collar Bird*. This exhibition is located in a small store that until lately operated as a bridal salon. The interior design of the space was planned by its previous owners. It is arranged by two low drywalls that divide the gallery into three areas. Amit Levinger uses the existent architecture in order to display his body of works which includes twenty-one paintings and one video.

When looking at Levinger's paintings an image may be perceived as both a t-shirt's collar and like a beak of a bird. This proof of concept is essential for realizing his paintings as it holds an illusion within. It indicates on the tangible boundaries of painting – on its change of perspectives, to begin with, or maybe this illusion creates a distortion, to flee with. His paintings have subjectivity of their own. They happen in transition. They almost transform into something else. They are almost sporty. They are almost masculine. There is some hangover of nightlife about their gestures. The painted line is sometimes broken and sometimes consecutive. Their background is black or white. These Paintings push dichotomy to its own limits. The motifs of the paintings are influenced from cheap clothing stores for men located nearby his home in South Tel Aviv, and from his past career as a soccer player. They are full of masculine symbolism as some of them refer to the lifted collar – a fashionable gimmick that was worn by James Dean, Elvis Presley, Serge Gainsbourg and Eric Cantona. In that sense, coquetry, dandyism, courtship, dark humor and absurd jokes are only few of the terms that derive from *Collar Bird*.

In addition to the paintings Amit Levinger is screening a new video on an iPad. *The Boxer* (2018) is a manipulated footage, a short sequence that Levinger filmed on his iPhone camera inside a boxing club located in the outskirts of London. A young boxer is sweating his soul on a punch-bag. The sound of his punches constantly echoes in the exhibition space. The boxing resonates to noise that transforms into lo-fi Techno music. This composition is constantly played, changing and affecting the body of the viewer when one is standing in front of Levinger's works.

Amit Levinger (1978, Kfar Saba, IL) lives and works in Tel Aviv. He graduated with B.Ed from Hamidrasha School of Art, Beit Berl College (2006). His videos, kinetic sculptures and installations were shown locally and internationally in solo and group exhibitions, in public and private spaces such as Tel Aviv Artists' Studios, Tel Aviv, IL (2016); Bar David Museum, Baram, IL (2016); MoBY, Bat Yam, IL (2013); Sommer Gallery, Tel Aviv, IL (2013); Hezi Cohen Gallery, Tel Aviv, IL (2012); ICA Philadelphia, PA (2012); Petach Tikva Museum of Art, Petach Tikva, IL (2012); Tate Modern, London, UK (2010); Haifa Museum of Art, Haifa, IL (2009); Video Biennale, Lyon, FR (2009); LOOP Video Festival, Barcelona, ES (2009); The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, IL (2007), among others. Amit Levinger is a recipient of The Young Artist Prize by The Israeli Ministry of Culture and Sports.