

Carol Es: Exodus

Curated by Anne Hromadka

March 21 – May 9, 2015

Shulamit Gallery is pleased to present *Exodus*, a solo exhibition by Los Angeles based multi-media artist Carol Es. The gallery will feature new work that delves into the artist's experience on a 10-day trip near Joshua Tree National Park in Spring 2014. Es spent this time in deep meditation and study, keeping a journal, photographing her surroundings, generating countless sketches, capturing DVD footage, and blogging about her process— all of which would become the inspiration and grounding for *Exodus*. Her journey to the edge of the wilderness and process of self-reflection is conveyed in each brush stroke across the canvas, paper, and wood. The exhibition is anchored around two new bodies of work – Es' mixed media collages and a series of paintings, *Abstracted Desert Landscapes*.

Es playfully examines the natural landscape in her latest paintings; her once dark color palette now explodes with vibrant and diverse hues. In her mixed media collages, rocks morph into calico dreamscapes set against exposed wood grain. In the series *Abstracted Desert Landscapes*, Es depicts an arid terrain dotted with rainbows, spaceships, and other wild imaginings, as seen in the work *Unexpected* (2014). As the artist explains:

“It is interesting to me that the root of Moses in Hebrew means ‘to be drawn out’ since the consummation of this past year resulted in a new found self-expression. For the first time in my career, I focused on my source materials (study and the desert landscape) remaining present in a space of continuous discovery. My past led me to seek refuge into the desert; however, it was my future that I followed home.” Originally, Es went to the desert in hopes of ridding herself of a lifetime of unwelcome baggage – she fled into the dusty terrain seeking freedom, revelation, wisdom, and insight. What she found is that the journeys we often take lead us to revelations of truths already inhabiting within us, waiting to be discovered.

Featured in the gallery's project space, Es presents her first multi-media installation *Up to Now*, consisting of a six-minute animated video situated inside a yellow and white 10' x 10' tent with attached foyer. Pinned to the interior walls are photographs, sketches, and field notes created during her 10-day trip to Joshua Tree. Looped on a 10" television next to a replica of the artist's camping experience, *Up to Now*, features a narration of Es' journey, produced in collaboration with musician and filmmaker, Jonathan Nesmith, and Susan Holloway. Both literal and semi-abstract, *Up to Now* features animated characters set against the iconic Joshua Tree landscape. An animated giraffe with a *yud* (Hebrew letter) on its head represents the artist's spiritual quest, while the doll-like “Moppet,” a long-standing character Es employs to represent herself, symbolizes the child-like desires for adventure, truth, and understanding.

Carol Es was born in 1968 in Santa Monica, California. Es' works are featured in numerous private and public collections, including the Getty Museum, Brooklyn Museum, UCLA Special Collections, the Jaffe Collection, and Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. She has exhibited at the Riverside Art Museum,

Torrance Art Museum, Santa Monica Museum of Art, the Craft & Folk Art Museum, and Zimmer Children's Museum. She is also a two-time recipient of the ARC Grant from the Durfee Foundation and the Artists' Fellowship in New York and was awarded a Pollock-Krasner Fellowship Award and a Wynn Newhouse Award. Additionally, she is a writer and a book artist, publishing handmade books out of her own press: Careless Press.

Anne Hromadka is an independent curator, arts management consultant and founder of AMH Art Advisory. Hromadka works with a select group of artists, arts non-profit organizations and commercial galleries to create exhibitions, increase exposure and strategically develop their goals. Hromadka acts as the curator for Hebrew Union College-JIR, Los Angeles.

About Shulamit Nazarian:

Shulamit Nazarian gallery began as a roving art platform in 2006 and opened its eponymous exhibition space in October 2012 in Los Angeles, California. The gallery works with local and international artists of diverse backgrounds. The gallery's practice is rooted in the belief that artistic practice plays a vital role in catalyzing cultural dialogue while highlighting the complexities of individual identity and sociopolitical realities.