

Shop Windows of History

1997- 2005

All are Singer Edition Works-on-Paper, 40” x 20” and 32” x 32

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Nineteenth century stereographs, hand-painted travel pictures and famous travelogues by explorers and writers, many of whom were captivated by the Bible, have inspired many of these compositions. In one montage, pilgrims and camels travel a desert route not unlike the one Mark Twain traveled on his Holy Land expedition. The pilgrims’ faces are drawn from a painting in Russia’s Hermitage. The camels were found etched on an abandoned wall on the Jerusalem – Jericho road. The imaginary composition is titled after a nineteenth century stereograph in my possession: “Russian Pilgrims on the Way to Jericho, Palestine.”

The poetry of Yehuda Amichai was also an inspiration; the first stanza of his poem, “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Why Jerusalem?”* inspired the title of the series and the montage, *Shop Windows of History*. “...The dead pretend to be resurrected, the living to be dead, peace puts on a scary mask of war, and war changes its ways to peace. And we who dwell within her are displayed in the shop windows of history and a wardrobe of peculiar fashions and frozen gestures...But what we really wanted was to go wild in dark storerooms with an untrammled joy as in the Garden of Eden...”

The Roman figures from antiquity, which appear in *Shop Windows of History*, were photographed outside the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, while the bust of Lenin was filmed at the sculpture garden adjacent to the Tretyakov Museum in Moscow. Regardless of their historic province these diverse visual motifs—from folk art to fine art—converge in hybrid compositions, which I construct in my suburban Boston studio.

*“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Why Jerusalem” in Open, Closed, Open by Yehuda Amichai, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2006

List of Photographs:

art-01
Jericho Circus Carousel
2000

art-02
The Bedouin Tent
2002

art-03
Who Fought the Battle of Jericho?
2001

art-04
Russian Pilgrims on the Road to Jericho
2003

art-05
Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors
2005

art-06
Shop Windows of History

art-07
Peace Prayer Mosaic
1997

art-08
Hit Parade Target
1998

art-09
Millennium Madness
1999