

Gary Goldstein: Superheroes on Newspaper / Last Edition

Gary Goldstein paints inside old books, or on pages from disbanded books that he buys at second-hand bookstores. He uses newspapers in his works, deleting, cutting, gluing together, painting, covering, and replacing one image or text with another. In this way, he exchanges one reality with another. His works constitute a quasi-private-diary, recorded in his own living room, in which he deals with questions of memory, identification and criticism. On the one hand, he thematizes the Holocaust, and on the other hand, he is also influenced by America's popular and consumerist culture of the 1950s and 1960s. This combination reflects the reality in which he grew up, as an American child of immigrant Holocaust-survivor parents.

The comic strip culture was accessible, offering him superheroes that promised a perfect world with infinite possibilities. The comic strip has greatly influenced Goldstein's works in terms of form, content, repetition, and continuity, which can be seen in works such as *He-Man* and *L'il Nancy*. In the series *Entretiens de Musée de Dresde*, Goldstein deals with his nostalgia for the cinematic heroes of his teen years. The figures, as well as the color range of blacks, whites, and reds are taken from articles and ads published in *Life* magazine. The chromatic overload portrays a *horror vacui* and a wish to control the page. In his *Genesis* series, he employs newspaper or magazine clippings, intertwined with Kabbalistic catchwords and texts. In this series, Goldstein combines glued-down newspaper clippings with painting. His subject matter consists of heads of heroes; comic strip superheroes, or saints adorned with golden rays.

By profusely using newspaper in his words, Goldstein successfully creates an archival continuum of personal memories and emotions.

Gary Goldstein was born in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1950, and grew up in Hartford, Connecticut. Studies: SU, Syracuse, NY, Department of Political Science, BA (1972); Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, MFA (1976). Immigrated to Israel (1977) and settled in Kibbutz Affikim (until 1981). Prizes: The Ministry of Science, Culture and Sports prize for excellence in the field of plastic arts (2007). Lives and works in Jerusalem (since 1981).

Shira Mushkin, Exhibition Curator

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