

5 May, 2010

Desire for Anima - Yigal Ozeri Solo Exhibition

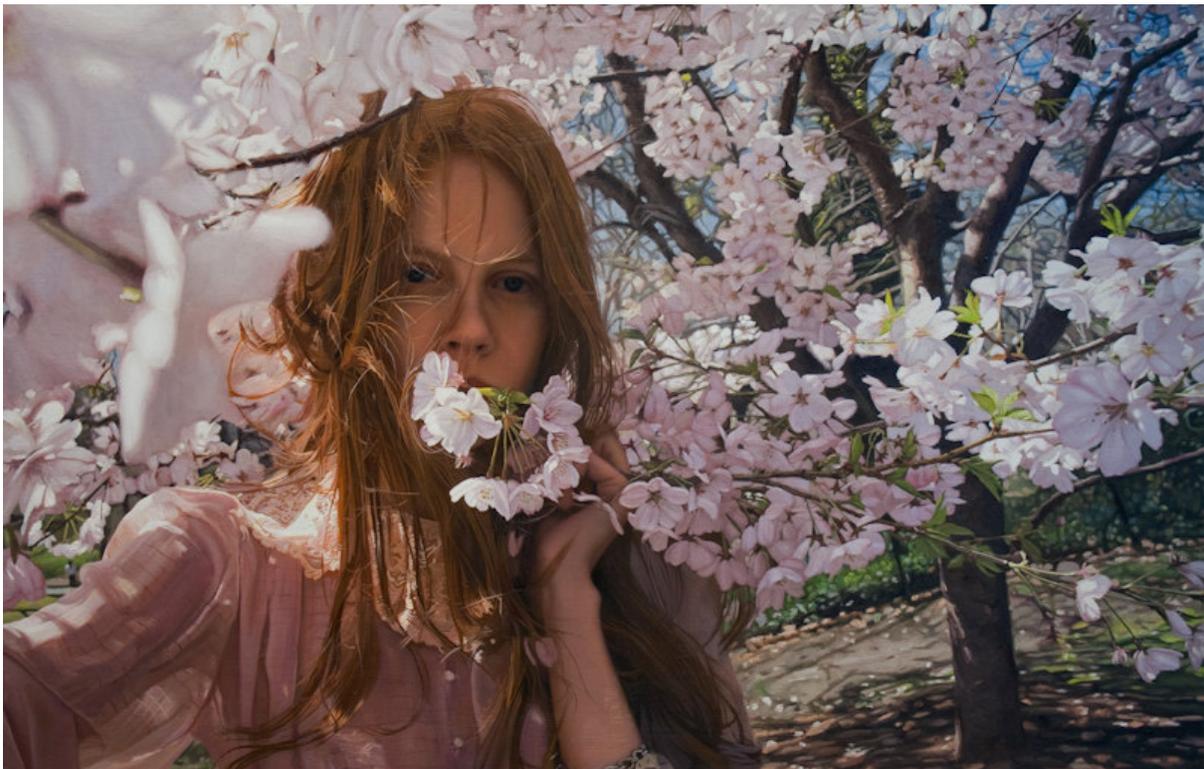
Opening Reception : 6-8pm, Mon 24 May, 2010

Exhibition Date : 25 May – 27 Jun 2010

Venue : Contemporary by Angela Li
G/F, 90-92 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong

Website : <http://www.cbal.com.hk>

Contemporary by Angela Li gallery presents *Desire for Anima*, an exhibition of new oil paintings by Israeli artist Yigal Ozeri. His paintings of young women are unusual for their uncanny realism and psychologically engaging presence. This is achieved by Ozeri's using both still photography and video in their initial stages, and painting the final works with thousands of tiny brushstrokes which animate the paintings' surfaces.



Untitled: Jessica in the Park, Oil on canvas, 56 x 86 cm, 2010



This series of paintings explores portraits of young women intricately entwined in the earthen landscapes that surround them. Many appear like film stills with the woman caught, unaware, consumed in thought or moving through the lush backgrounds. Others gaze directly at the viewer in a somewhat challenging and unsettling manner. In some, all that is visible are fragments of the girls' body – faces, limbs, richly textured garments. In every painting, Ozeri captures the vulnerability of the girl's bodies, at the transitional age between youth and maturity. For the artist, the results of his paintings express his feminine “anima”, Carl Jung's concept of the essential woman. This psychological presence is the hidden essence of his work.

Ozeri begins his process for these paintings by bringing a photographic crew to diverse landscapes in which he places the young women within the final composition in order to get precisely the results he is seeking. After choosing among the resulting images, he takes these and begins the painting process. The results are cinematic portraits of almost photographic realism. Their carefully staged, conceptual installations reflect the high-definition realism that today pervades media including television and movies; while their almost invisible



brushstrokes, in the manner of traditional trompe l'oeil painting, play on concepts of perception and illusion.

Yigal Ozeri has exhibited extensively throughout Israel, Europe and the United States, and his work can be found in many prominent collections, including Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel; Albertina Museum, Vienna; Scheringa Museum of Realist Art, Netherlands; Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Westchester; Kennedy Center for the Arts, Washington DC; McNay Art Museum, San Antonio; Nerman Museum, Kansas City; and The Jewish Museum, New York. The artist lives and works in New York City.

Untitled; Jessica in the Park, Oil on Canvas, 137 x 91 cm, 2010