

Ruti de Vries, 'Wild Heart'

Ha'Kibbutz Gallery, 20 April– 20 May 2017

Curator: Yael Kini

"... And in her big dark dark eyes there was a passive sweetness of a deep, irrepressible savagery, similar to foreknowledge. In fact, foreknowledge is not the right word, since it is not about knowledge. It will be more accurate to say that what was strange in these eyes was reminiscent of the mysterious stupidity of animals, who "know" not through knowledge but through a certain sense of their vulnerable body, the past and the future of every destiny. This sense of theirs that merges with their other physical senses – I would call the sense of holiness ..."

(Elsa Morante, "History: A Novel")

In her show 'Wild Heart', Ruti de Vries displays a site-specific installation which spreads throughout the gallery, is made of low-cost and raw materials and is characterized by an excessiveness of images. Many of the works take the figures of animals, and are the outcome of an extensive research of the image of the animal in culture and its historic power relations with the human being. The animal may be seen as subordinated to and as property of the human, but in many mythologies it is also described as its host which guides him through the world.

Alongside the monumental sculptures, the exhibition also includes various hand-made decorative molds which were produced in a toiling crafted process and are hung as floor carpets or wallpapers in the gallery. They create a kind of a-hierarchical and a-dependent mixture of languages and signs from biblical and mythological origins and folklore. The decorativeness, repetition and symmetry function here not just as an aesthetic component, but also as a means to touch upon gender and culture questions. Basic forms, patterns and materials are always already a symbolic means to present the order of the world.