

GALLERY GUIDE

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Yigal Ozeri at Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA

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THE MONTHLY GUIDE TO
LEADING GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS

Yigal Ozeri *Territory*

May 10 – June 30, 2012

Artist Reception: Thursday, May 10, 5:30-7:30

JENKINS JOHNSON GALLERY

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Yigal Ozeri *Untitled; Megan in the Park*, 2012, oil on paper, 42 X 60 inches

Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco is proud to present *Territory*, a solo exhibition of new works by Israeli artist Yigal Ozeri. The exhibition will showcase new large-scale oil on paper paintings along with a grouping of smaller watercolors. An opening reception with the artist is Thursday, May 10 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Territory features new and exquisitely rendered paintings, harkening to Ozeri's classic and beloved series *Desire for Anima*, pairing women with rustic natural settings. In these virtually photographic paintings, Ozeri continues to examine the female psyche, exploring the beauty and melancholy of his subjects' intimate states of thought. His work intersects an ongoing investigation of Carl Jung's philosophy of the anima with aesthetic references to the Pre-Raphaelite movement and

Romanticism. Ozeri's artistic process begins when he brings his subjects out into nature and photographs them at one with their surroundings, free-spirited and unrefined. He resists directing their movement though he specifically selects the location, the timing, and their clothing, with great care. Ozeri finds his subjects in a very informal manner, usually meeting friends-of-friends, and he forms close bonds with the models, serving as a father-figure, a mentor, a friend, and this close relationship radiates from the canvas: he cares about the subjects, and as a result, we care about them as well.

While the setting in many of the paintings is near the boathouse in Central Park, the works in *Territory* are painted with early morning light, between 7 and 9 am, an entirely new period of time for the artist. *Untitled; Megan in the Park*, shown



Yigal Ozeri *Untitled; Jacqueline*, 2012, oil on paper, 42 X 60 inches

above, features these similarities and new differences. Megan, a recent subject for Ozeri, is depicted in Central Park in the light of daybreak, which gives the painting a warm, summery glow. Ozeri's masterful technique gives us the feeling that we could reach out and brush back Megan's hair, feel the chiffon of her shirt, be cooled by the breeze through the trees. Through his painstaking process, we are pulled into the scene with the subjects.

Jenkins Johnson Gallery is excited to present Ozeri's first solo show in San Francisco, as his dedication to his art is legendary and unflagging. Ozeri states, "My style is heightened by my belief that the process of creating art is to be taken from the depths of my soul," and this ultra-personal aura is undeniable in these

striking paintings.

Yigal Ozeri was born in Israel and currently lives and works in New York. He has shown extensively throughout the world, including recent solo exhibitions in Copenhagen, Tel Aviv, Bologna, Barcelona, Hong Kong, and Amsterdam, among others. His work is in numerous permanent collections, such as: Albertina Museum, Vienna; The Jewish Museum, New York; The New York Public Library; the McNay Art Museum, San Antonio; and the Museum of Modern Art, Haifa, including others.

ALSO ON VIEW: Drawings and paintings by Vanessa Prager in *The Moon is Down*