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SHOSHANA WAYNE
GALLERY

Zadok Ben-David

“People I Saw but Never Met”

April 8 – May 27, 2017

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 8th, 2017, 5 – 7 pm

Shoshana Wayne Gallery is pleased to present *People I Saw But Never Met* by Zadok Ben-David. This is the London-based artist’s third solo exhibition with the gallery. The exhibition will be on view April 8th through May 27th, 2017, with an opening reception on Saturday, April 8th from 5-7pm.

People I Saw But Never Met (2015-2017) is Ben-David’s latest ongoing body of work, which, to date, includes over 3,000 chemically etched miniature figures and 45 larger hand-cut figures made from aluminum. Culled from photographs the artist took of people he encountered from a distance as a result of his travels to Europe, The United States, Central Asia, Far East Australia, and Antarctica, the installation brings together an unlikely assemblage of global citizens. Ben-David’s sculptural milieu comes at a critical point in our current socio-political climate where heated debates about exclusion and borders versus inclusivity and multiplicity are part of our daily experience.

Multiplicity as an organizing principle has played a significant role in Ben-David’s work starting with *Evolution and Theory* (1995) to his two previous exhibitions at the gallery *Blackfield* (2009) and *The Otherside of Midnight* (2013). Known for creating multiple versions of a singular natural form such as flowers or butterflies, each variation bearing a unique gesture by the artist, Ben-David’s installations create an alternate amplified viewing space where the relationship between viewer (human) and artwork (nature) is both sacred and destabilizing. Where multiplicity differs in *People I Saw But Never Met* is in the artist’s approach toward an ethos of pluralization. Ben-David’s accumulation of real-life global people suggests the ways in which we are both isolated yet always in relation to one another. The sand which anchors the figures acts also as a collective ground on which we stand or as the substance from which we all spring and despite variations in scale, there is no hierarchy, each figure no matter his or her origin is treated with dignity and respect.

Zadok Ben-David has exhibited extensively throughout Europe and Asia including, Kenpoku Art Festival, Irabaki Prefecture, Japan (2016); The Art Gallery of Uzbekistan, Tashkent (2015); National Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana (2014); Singapore Botanical Gardens presented by Sotheby's (2013); and The Tel Aviv Museum (2009 and 2010) amongst many others. Ben-David has participated in prestigious biennials worldwide including, Busan Biennial, South Korea (2010); Biennale Cuveé (2009); *Wonder* Singapore Biennale, Singapore (2008); and the Venice Biennale, Italy (1988). He is the recipient of both the Grande Biennial Premio at the XIV Biennale Internacional de Arte de Vila Nova de Cerveira, Portugal (2007) as well as the Tel Aviv Museum prize (2005). The artist lives and works in London.

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