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## Press information

### Dor Guez | The Nation's Groves

September 10 - October 22, 2011  
Opening: September 9, 6-9 pm

carlier | gebauer is very pleased to present the work of Dor Guez in its premises. It is the first exhibition of Guez with carlier | gebauer.

Dor Guez's work integrates the research of archives and employs photography to engage with questions of identity, multiculturalism and national ethos. His work investigates a multifaceted reality, challenging the boundaries and prevalent binary oppositions of nationalism, religion, and ethnicity. Guez's personal history, as the child of Palestinian-Christian and Tunisian-Jewish parents, plays an important role in his artistic practice. Guez's works analyze known narrations in a visual language which rejects and diverts any form of exoticism projection.

"The Nation's Groves" was a government-owned agricultural company which dealt with the transfer of the groves, vineyards, and agricultural land of the "absentee" Palestinians, following the declaration of Israel in 1948: for settlement, afforestation, and agriculture. The company closed in 1960 and merged with the KKL-JNF (Jewish National Fund). Guez's new series (2011) of lightboxes consists of several large-scale panoramic photographs of pine forests. Known as "KKL-JNF Forests", they serve as picnic sites for weekend vacationers, and have long become part of a naturalized imagination of what is seen as an Israeli landscape. In effect, however, not much has grown here involuntarily; millions of pine trees were planted after 1948 over thousands of acres throughout Israel as part of one of the largest afforestation projects ever implemented worldwide. The leaders of KKL-JNF, European Jews for the most part, opted for the pine tree due to their yearning for the European coniferous woods. The pine forests covered the preceding vegetation, the agricultural plots, and the vestiges of the Palestinian villages, transforming the local landscape into a fundamentally other. The pine trees, hardly destined for this vegetation, sealed the topsoil, bringing the vegetation beneath it to a complete standstill. One of the central works in the exhibition, a lightbox, features a forest, with a disconcerting sight of two Palestinian riders at its center, contesting the orderly artificial space.

Dor Guez was born in Jerusalem and lives and works in Tel Aviv, Israel. He received a Bachelor of Photography and Video from the Department of Photography and Video, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem, and a master's degree from the Interdisciplinary Program in the Arts, Tel Aviv University. Guez is a graduate of the Museology Studies (Curatorship) Program, Tel Aviv University, he is currently a PhD researcher at the Faculty of the Arts, Tel Aviv University and a professor at the theory and history department at Bezalel Academy of Arts.

Guez's work has been the subject of several solo exhibitions, including Georgiopolis at Petach Tikva Museum for Art (2009); The Monayer Family at The Jewish Museum, New York (2010); Al-LYDD at the KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2010); Watermelons under the bed at The Center for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv, The Nation's Groves at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2011); and Dor Guez: Against the Grain at Beursschouwburg, Brussels (2011). Guez is the 2010 winner of The Young Artist Award of The Israeli Ministry of Culture and Education. He was a finalist at The Gottesdiener Prize, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, 2011, where his exhibition "The Nation's Groves" was previously exhibited. In the near future his work will be exposed at the 12th Istanbul Biennial and at the 17th International Contemporary Art Festival SESC, Videobrasil, São Paulo.