

Michael Halak | God is found in small places

Halak's body of work emphasizes his personal search for identity and belonging, and wider considerations on the intricacy of defining the status of minority groups in Israel. Reflecting upon the identity of Christian Palestinians by referencing religious precepts and symbols, Halak examines the interlacing themes of politics, religion and materialism.

The underlying criticism of consumer goods as the material expression of spiritual qualities and values, comes across both images and symbolic references to numerology. Significantly, once considered in relation to the local context, the relevance of these elements transcends the straightforward meaning within religious doctrine and dogma; rather serving as charged analogy for identity-politics.

While the hyper-realistic style poses an emphasis on particulars and authentic representation, the conceptual approach and permeating sarcasm destabilize the imagery, echoing the artist's personal feeling of impermanence, ambiguous sense of belonging and disenchantment with the political and religious status-quo. The audience is provided with imagery saturated with fine details, to the point that authentic objects seem to stand in front of them, and while "God is found in small places," Halak reminds us to be mindful and judicious, since, as the idiom goes: "the devil is in details."