

Press release

MEETING ARCHITECTURE

Architecture and the Creative Process

A programme of lectures, study-exhibitions and performances

4 March 2014

Part 4

AMOS GITAI

Politics, Esthetics, Cinema

18.00: Film Screening of *Lullaby to my Father* introduced by Irene Bignardi

19.30: Lecture by Amos Gitai

The British School at Rome, Via Gramsci 61, Roma

In collaboration with the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici

In this fourth event in our programme *Meeting Architecture-Architecture and the Creative Process* the British School at Rome together with the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici have invited the Israeli film director **Amos Gitai**, both to lecture on his work and to present his film ***Lullaby to my Father*** (2012).

Amos Gitai, was not only trained as an architect but is also the son of a well-known architect, Munio Weinraub. In 2012, Gitai established Israel's first museum of architecture in memory of his father. In his lecture at the British School at Rome, ***Politics, Esthetics, Cinema***, Gitai will discuss the **relationship between architecture and film in his work**, and present extracts from ***Architecture in Israel*** (2012), a series of 16 films written and directed by him. In each episode, Gitai converses with architects,

sociologists, archeologists, cultural researchers and writers discussing different aspects of architecture, urbanism, conservation and planning. Before the lecture, he will present his film *Lullaby to my Father*, premiered at the 69th Venice International Film Festival. The film tells the story of Munio Weinraub, who was a student at the Bauhaus design and architecture school in Dessau before Hitler closed the school in 1933. In May 1933, Weinraub was accused of "treason against the German people", sent to prison and later on expelled from Germany. The film follows Munio's route from Poland to Germany, from Switzerland to Palestine. Gitai has referred to the film as **“a voyage searching for the relationships between a father and his son, architecture and movies, the history of a journey and intimate memories.”**

Amos Gitai was an architecture student and following in his father's footsteps, when the Yom Kippur War interrupted his studies. It was the use of his Super-8 camera, whilst flying helicopter missions that led to his career as a filmmaker. This experience later formed the basis of the highly praised film *Kippur* (2000). In the late 70s and early 80s, Gitai directed numerous documentaries, including *House and Field Diary*. During that same period, Gitai received his PhD in architecture from the University of California - Berkeley.

Based in Israel, the United States and France, Gitai has produced an extraordinary, wide-ranging, and deeply personal body of work. In around 40 films - both documentary and fiction, Gitai has explored the layers of history in the Middle East and beyond, and has included his own personal history, through such themes as homeland and exile, religion, social control and utopia. His trademark style includes long takes with scarce but significant camera movements and a characteristic sense of humour. Some of Gitai's other acclaimed films include: *Kadosh* (the third film in Gitai's trilogy of Israeli cities), *Kippur* (2000), *Kedma* (2002) and *Free Zone* (2005).

Gitai's work has been the subject of major retrospectives, notably at the Centre Pompidou (Paris), NFT and ICA (London), Lincoln Center (New York). In 2012, the Venice International Film Festival presented a retrospective of his work and his new film *Ana Arabia* won the Green Drop Award at the 2013 Venice International Film Festival. In February

2014, the Cinémathèque française in Paris will present a retrospective of this work.

As part of the programme *Meeting Architecture*, on Wednesday 5 March at 11.00, **MAXXI – the National Museum of XXI Century Arts** – proposes a guided tour of the exhibition ***Gabriele Basilico. Photographs from the MAXXI collections***. Together with Basilico's work, the exhibition includes a new documentary film by Amos Gitai and a long interview with Basilico produced in 2012 during the Architecture Biennale.

Amos Gitai will lecture at the Royal College of Art on **March 25th 2014**.

Architecture Programme British School at Rome curated by Marina Engel

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