

# BERESHIT GENESIS

photography  
Rafael Y. Herman



Rafael Y. Herman, *Light of the Dark No. 1*, 2005, cibachrome, cm 50x72

**Studio Guastalla Arte Moderna e Contemporanea - Milano**

**Photography Exhibition of Rafael Y. Herman**  
**Opening: Wednesday 21 November from 6 to 9pm**

**21 November 2007 – 9 February 2008**

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**Opening hours: 10am – 1pm , 3 – 7pm Tuesday – Saturday**  
**(Holyday-Closed from 25 December to 7 January)**

## BERESHIT genesis

### The tree. Survival and choice

The images of trees in the Israeli desert, photographed by **Rafael Y. Herman**, were created a few years ago out of the desire to confront two fundamental issues of the human being: **survival and choice**.

The **tree** is both a metaphor for the human being and the “tree of conscience”, of good and evil.

The trees of Israel, the land of Bereshit (Genesis, in Hebrew), **lonely in the desert**, at the time of the full moon, embrace life, they struggle, they suffer. **Maybe** they shake within the light of the dark, within **the void that remembers everything**.

Choosing survival in conditions of apparent impossibility of life, in the solitude of the desert. Emotions lived within the depth of human beings.

Rafael Y. Herman was born in the desert and his experience of life brought him to “feel”, at times, “just like his trees”.

### The light of the dark

The photos were realized under the **moonlight** and the process of the work had no digital manipulation.

The images create a new reality, one that our eye can not see and does not know: a **surreal reality** of color and light, **free of shadow**.

The trees are bathed in a light that seems spaceless and borderless just like the light of the first day, which according to the Hebrew tradition was a **spiritual light**. Before the creation of sun and moon, an absolute light of *Bereshit* pervaded the world from beginning to end, and allowed one **to see without limits**.

The trees photographed by Rafael Y. Herman become abstract images, bathed in a light that does not project shadows – infinite, spiritual light.

### *Bereshit*. The Genesis project

The photographs exhibited at **Studio Guastalla** constitute the fulcrum of the **Genesis project**, which took three years, during the time the artist was revisiting his homeland.

“...Leaving the house, in the middle of the ancient 'Desert of Beer-Sheva' (Genesis 21), with the descending daylight, I advanced into the night, into the **screaming silence**, following a clear direction without a clear way. There are very few nights that you can work and very few images you can produce each night. And the research is never a promise”.

Silence, fear, fantasy, waiting, nostalgia and loneliness, make up the ambivalent feelings that R.Y. Herman felt while working in the desert nights, which the viewer relives in front of these images.

The Genesis project wants to take us back to the beginning, to Genesis – to the moment when we started to choose and make decisions. It is even more than that – it goes back to a single moment before the choice, to think again about choices one has to make, just like human beings in general and visitors in particular.

The Genesis project also includes the installation **Tunnel to Genesis**, shown at **Sala delle Cariatidi at the Royal Palace in Milan**, during December 2006. This work has attracted a huge public and critical interest and has attracted the particular attention of the curators of the Pompidou Centre who want to display it both in Paris and in China.



**Rafael Yossef Herman** was born in 1974 in the middle of the Israeli desert, in Beer-Sheva, the biblical city founded by Abraham. During childhood he dedicated himself to percussion and classical music studies for 11 years, and received his diploma from the city conservatory in 1992. Following his graduation at Tel Aviv University in Economics and Management (2000), R.Y. Herman decided to pursue his long life passion of photography.

His varied educational and working experiences in the photography industry, led him to travel throughout Latin America as a photographer for more than 3 years. During this period his photographic projects ranged from the collaboration with Amnesty International to the participation in a comuna de artistas in Santiago de Chile. His works were exhibited across Latin American capitols, into Europe and Israel. Currently his multiform photographic projects roam from fashion to reportage, from movie set photography to experimental photo research, both in Europe and the U.S.

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

*Sinergia*, project for Amnesty International sponsored by Catholic University and Fuji, Japan Cultural Center, Asuncion, Paraguay, 2002

*Viajes* (Travels), art festival *Kultraltum*, Plaza Brazil, Santiago, Chile, 2002

*Respirar Pasado* (Breath Past), Collective, Palacio Larrain, support by Israel Embassy, Santiago, Chile, 2002

*Colores de Brazil*, El Taller gallery, Santiago, Chile, 2003

*Ritos*, Chilean Israeli Cultural Center, Santiago, Chile, 2003

*Ritos*, Sharet Cultural Center, Peteh Tikva, Israel, June 2004

*Beauty*, Goethe Institute, Budapest, Hungary, December 2005

*Magà*, Sala delle Cariatidi, Palazzo Reale, Milan, Italia, December 2006

*Omanut. Israele Arte e Vita*, Collective, Palazzo Reale, Milan, Novembre 2006-January 2007

*Spazio Modular*, Collective, Bologna, February 2007