

Flash Art

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Just A Bit About My Self

Hi, my name is Omer Fast, I'm 22 years old, and I just recently completed a three years service in the military, which is a compulsory service here in Israel.

I live in a place called Emek Izrael, which is near Haifa, Israel. I'm the second child out of five kids (I have an older sister and three younger brothers).

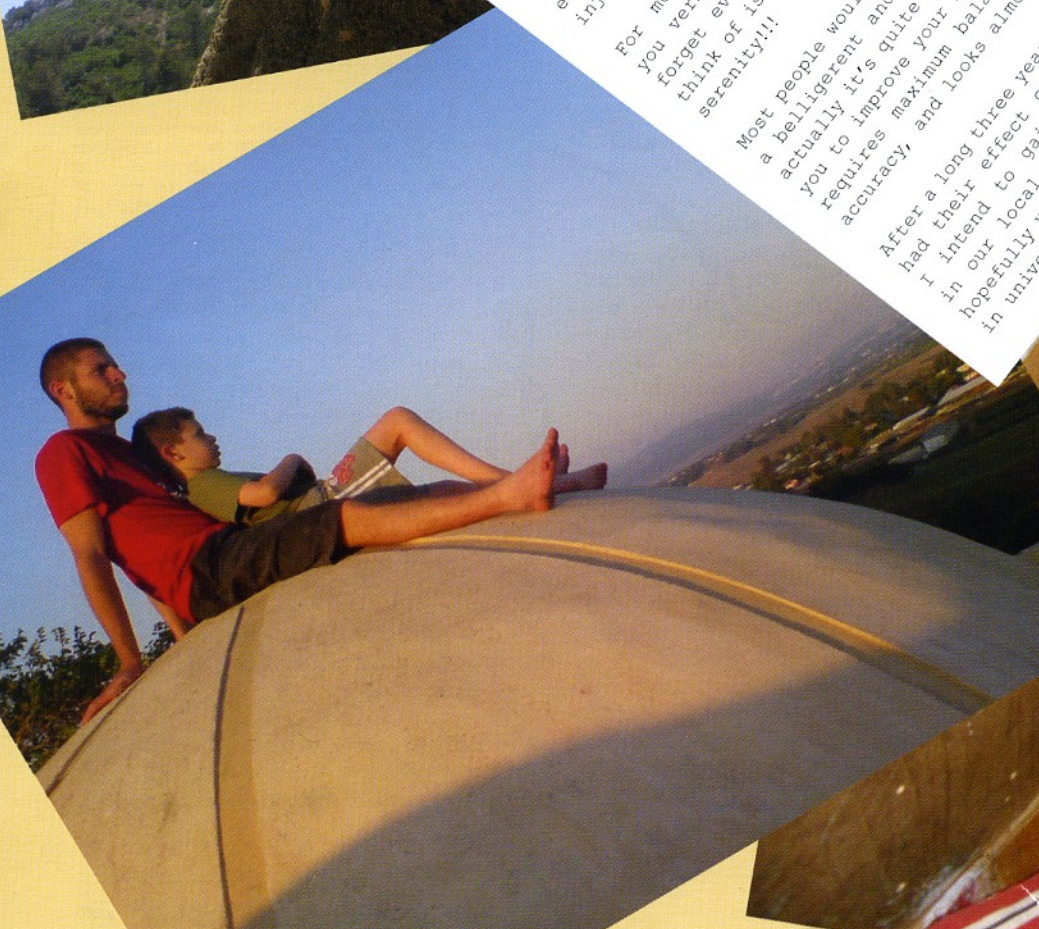
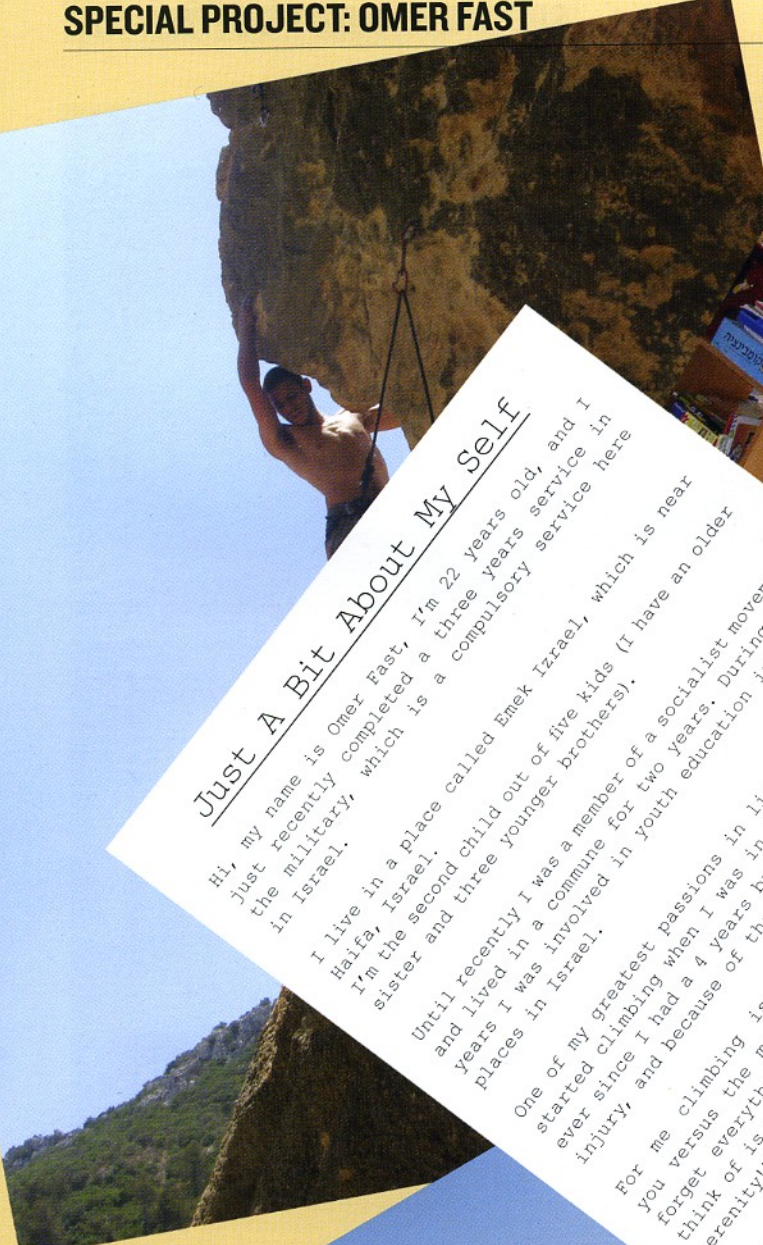
Until recently I was a member of a socialist movement and lived in a commune for two years. During those years I was involved in youth education in several places in Israel.

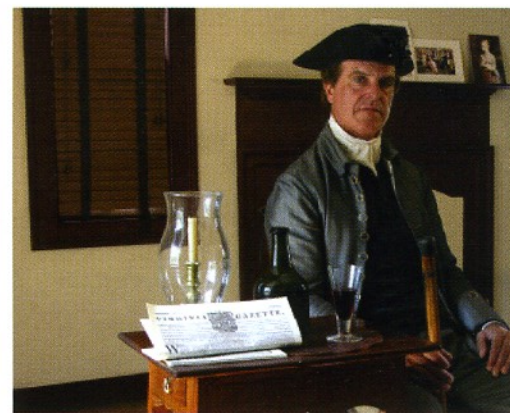
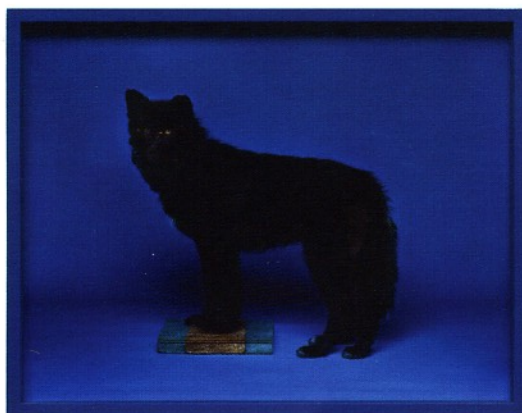
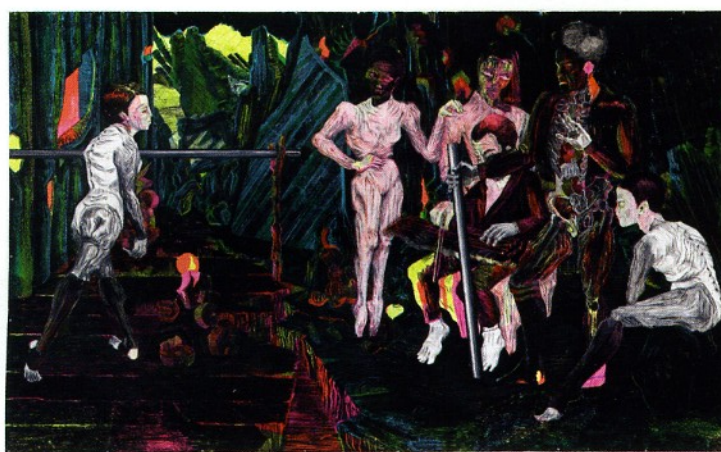
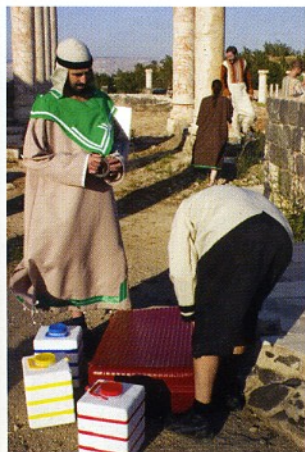
One of my greatest passions in life is climbing. I started climbing when I was in the fifth grade, and ever since I had a 4 years break because of a finger injury, and because of the fact I was in the army.

For me climbing is like meditation. It is only you versus the mountain. Once you are there, you forget everything else, no interruptions, all you think of is your next move, to breathe right. Total serenity!!!

Most people would naturally assume that climbing is a belligerent and aggressive kind of sport, while actually it's quite the opposite. Indeed it requires you to improve your fitness and stamina but it also requires maximum balance, a lot of thinking and accuracy, and looks almost like dancing sometimes.

After a long three years in the army, which naturally had their effect on me, in the next year or two, I intend to gain some perspective on life, work in our local climbing wall, travel the world and hopefully understand what profession I want to study in university and occupy in my life.





Focus Israel

FOCUS ISRAEL is an attempt to frame the polymorphous, energetic and ubiquitous production of a selected group of Israeli artists. Furthermore, it is an attempt to question universal issues such as globalization and the concept of 'borders,' either cultural or geographical. Driving the selection are three shows recently held in Israel: ArtTLV 2008 – "Prologue" in Tel Aviv; ArtFocus 5 – "Can Art Do More?" in Jerusalem; and "Eventually We'll Die: Young Art in Israel of the Nineties" at the Herzliya Museum.

In an email exchange, Yael Bartana, Elad Lassry, Ohad Meromi and Daniel Silver share thoughts about being an Israeli artist living abroad and, more generally, being an artist today. Back to Tel Aviv, *the city that never sleeps*, Yael Bergstein meets Michal Helfman, an artist whose practice is generated by the conceptualization of so-called "nightlife" — although her recent maternity brought her to new and promising experimentations. Increasing our artists' archive on flashartonline.com is a series of short profiles featuring more than fifty young Israeli artists. Conceived as interludes

to the Focus section, *Flash Art* presents full-page special projects by Omer Fast, Mika Rottenberg and Guy Ben-Ner, who have all been covered in recent issues of the magazine.

— Nicola Trezzi

Clockwise: GUY BEN-NER, *House Hold*, 2001. Video, 23 mins. Courtesy the artist and Postmasters, New York; YAEL BARTANA, *Mur i wieża* (working title), 2009. Production still, Warsaw. Photo: Magda Wunsche & Samsel; DANIEL SILVER, *Heads*, 2007. Installation view at Camden Arts Centre, 2007, London. Courtesy Suzy Shammah, Milan; DANIEL SILVER, *Woman on The Mountain*, *Head in The Mountain*, 2006. Plaster, wood and found material, dimensions variable. Courtesy Ibid Projects, London; OMER FAST, *Godville*, 2005. Two-channel video, 51 mins. Courtesy the artist; ELAD LASSRY, *Wolf (Blue)*, 2008. C-print, 29.2 x 36.8 cm. Courtesy David Kordansky, Los Angeles; MIKA ROTTENBERG, *Cheese* (2008), 2008. Video still. Courtesy Nicole Klagsbrun, New York; OHAD MEROMI, *The Exception and the Rule*, *Schitopolis*, 2007. Production still. Courtesy the artist; HARRIS LIEBERMAN, New York; MICHAL HELFMAN, *The Lesson*, 2009. Incised oil-pastel on acrylic on paper 150 x 280 cm. Courtesy Sommer Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv.