

In His Own Backyard

By JESSICA VRAZILEK

Uri Katzenstein at Tel Aviv Museum.

Backyard is one of this year's big exhibitions at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art. The exhibition of works by Israel's mysterious multi-medium artist Uri Katzenstein has been well received by visitors and critics alike. *Backyard* shows Katzenstein's thought-provoking and highly moving body of work, as he transforms the exhibition spaces into unique visual landscapes between the future and the past.

Katzenstein was chosen to exhibit at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art as the winner of the 2014 Dan Sandel Sculpture Award, and the Museum chose to enlarge the exhibition to better show Katzenstein's complex work.

"Katzenstein is one of those groundbreaking artists who undermine the standard experience of looking at artworks and blur the boundaries between different artistic media," says Suzanne Landau, museum director and head curator. "His work gives viewers innovative and exciting experimental art, living around them and transforming them into a part of the work."

While a front yard is all about order and cleanness, a backyard is a place where thoughts, experiments, and failures come together.

"Katzenstein's creation is humorous and touching, with beautiful scenes. His works, which bring together the worlds of fantasy, technology, new aesthetics and social interpretation, undermine our basic modes of living, and our way of understanding the world around us," says exhibition curator Varda Steinlauf.

Katzenstein (born 1951 in Tel Aviv) is internationally known for his innovative ways with sculpture, performance, music, machines and film. Katzenstein has exhibited in known museums around the world, among them the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, the Venice Biennale, and the Biennale in Buenos Aires, where he was awarded first prize.

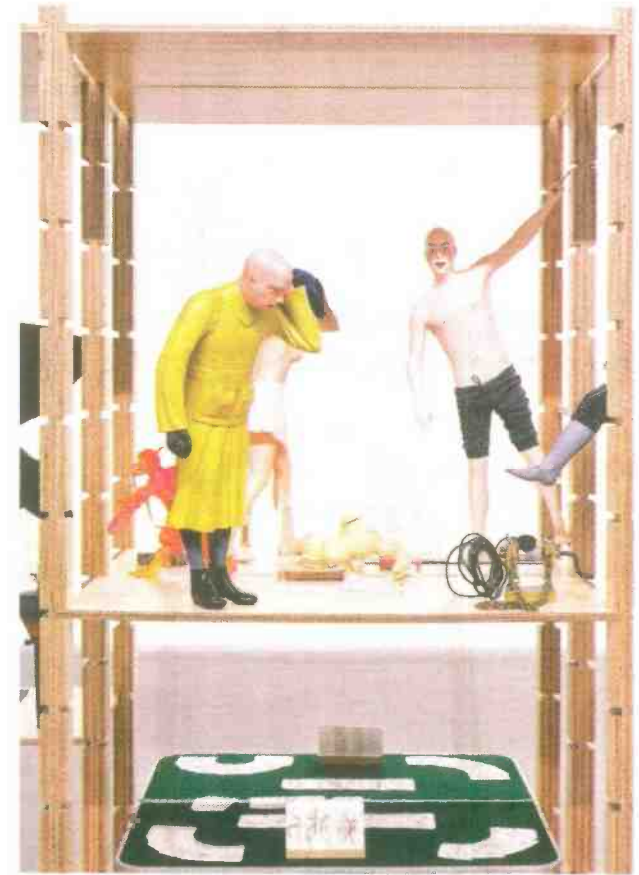
In his exhibition at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Katzenstein's works are shown in three main gallery spaces. Each of the spaces has its own tone, while harmoniously working together. In the exhibition, different aspects of Katzenstein's work are shown through a range of media – video, sculpture, sound, robotics and language, all of which show the dark and dangerous metaphorical world of the human body and hybrid creations.

"Most of my works are based on hybrid creatures, which live between different media. I am interested in looking into how music can become something more visual," says Katzenstein. This can be seen in his performances.

"Backyard" shows the range of Katzenstein's art-making process. Katzenstein's prize-winning sculptures, painted bronze, stand in the gallery spaces, creating a world of androgynous hybrid characters from his imagination. The exhibition travels between sculpture and video, and films like *Family of Brothers* (1999) and *Hope Machines* (2006- 2007) give the viewer an idea of Katzenstein's interests as he invites music and objects to, in his words, "dance with one another."

The exhibition and catalogue is in three languages: Hebrew, English and a creation Katzenstein calls "Backyard font," which graphically shows English in an alternative way. The artist, who himself speaks Hebrew, English and German, and has a good understanding of French, sees this exhibition as his manifesto for his new "language of the future."

Katzenstein is anything but predictable, and because the artist will not be generic in any way, his limitless imagination gives his work a futuristic status that must be experienced to be truly understood.



(PR)

Dictionary

Exhibitions	אגזיבישנ	תערוכות
Received	ריסיבד	התקבלה
Critics	קריטיקס	מבקרים
Provoking	פרובוקינג	מעורר
Transforms	טרנספורמז	הופך
Unique	יוניק	מיוחדים
Landscapes	לנדסקיפס	נופים
Sculpture	סקלפצ'ר	פיסול
Award	אורד	פרס
Complex	קומפלקס	מורכבת
Groundbreaking	גראונדבריניג	פורצי דרך
Undermine	אנדרמיין	חותרים
Experience	אקספיריאנס	חוויה
Blur	בלר	מטשטשים
Boundaries	באונדרייז	גבולות
Director	דירקטור	מנהלת
Curator	קיריטור	אוצרת
Innovative	אינוביטיב	חדשנית
Experimental	אקספרימנטל	ניסיונית
Failures	פילירז	כישלונות
Interpretation	אינטרפרטישן	פרשנות
Performance	פרפורמנס	מופע
Range	רינג'	מנעד
Language	לנגואג'	שפה
Process	פרוקס	תהליך
Characters	קרקטור	דמויות
Imagination	אימג'ינישן	דמיון
Predictable	פרידיקטבל	צפוי

