

ESTHER SHALEV-GERZ

BIOGRAPHY

Based in Paris, Esther Shalev-Gerz is internationally recognized for her seminal contributions to the field of art in the public realm and her consistent investigation into the construction of memory, history, the natural world, democracy and cultural identities. Her works challenge the notion and practice of portraiture and consider how its qualities may contribute to contemporary discourse about the politics of representation.

Her monuments, installations, photography, video and public sculpture are developed through active dialogue, consultation and negotiation with people whose participation provides an emphasis to their individual and collective memories, accounts, opinions and experiences which then become both represented and considered.

Constantly inquiring into transitional qualities of time and space and the correlative transformation of identities, locales and (hi)stories, Esther Shalev-Gerz has produced a body of work that simultaneously records, critiques, and contributes to our understandings of the societal roles and value of artistic practice.

Esther Shalev-Gerz, born Gilinsky, was born in Vilnius, Lithuania. She graduated from Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem. She had received grants and generous support from, among others, the DAAD, Berlin in 1990, from IASPIS Stockholm in 2002, from The Wolfsonian, FIU, Miami in 2011, from the QoG Institute, Göteborg University, Sweden in 2011 and from the Swedish Research Council in 2010-2013. From 2003 to 2015 she was a Professor in the MA at Valand Art School, Göteborg University Sweden. Since 1984 she lives and works in Paris.

She has exhibited internationally in, amongst other places, San Francisco, Paris, Berlin, London, Stockholm, Vancouver, Finland, Geneva, Guangzhou and New York. Significant retrospective exhibitions were presented at the Serlachius Museum, Mänttä, Finland (2017), Wasserman Projects, Detroit (2016), the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne (2012) and Jeu de Paume, Paris (2010).

She created permanent projects in public spaces in Hamburg, Galilee, Stockholm, Knislinge, Geneva, Glasgow and Vancouver. One of her major installations is currently part of the exhibition *In the Troubled Air...* curated by Georges Didi-Huberman for Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid (Nov 6th - March 17th 2025).

Her work can be found in major international public and private collections, more than 30 monographic publications have been published about her work.

Shalev-Gerz is represented by WASSERMAN PROJECTS, Detroit, Bénédicte Delay, jsvcPROJECTS/London, Sprovieri Gallery, London and Galleri Susanne Ottesen, Copenhagen.