



Opening Ceremony of Exhibition *From Generation to Generation/The New Haggadah*

The exhibition of Austrian artist Arik Brauer is the best overture to the 11th Festival of Tolerance, which is held in Zagreb from 8 April to 14 April

Zagreb, 04 April 2017 – last night the opening ceremony of the exhibition of illustrations "From Generation to Generation/The New Haggadah" by Austrian artist **Arik Brauer** was held at the Zagreb Museum of Arts and Crafts.

The ceremony was attended by Zagreb Mayor **Milan Bandić**, Austrian Ambassador **Andreas Wiedenhoff**, Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum **Susanne Ranetzky**, Director of the Jewish Museum in Vienna **Danielle Spera**, Director of the Museum of Arts and Crafts **Miroslav Gašparović**, as well as representatives of ministries and numerous other distinguished guests.

Arik Brauer is a versatile artist, who pursues drawing, dancing, singing and set design. His works emanate surrealism, and in 1982 his first independent exhibition was shown in the USA. He also designed architectural projects in Austria and Israel, with the facades and interiors of his buildings characterized by fantastic mosaics, frescoes and painted tiles. The Zagreb exhibition shows his view of the magnificently illustrated book Haggadah shel Pesah, which contains stories about the liberation of the Jews from slavery and their escape from Egypt during the spring holiday Pesah.

This exhibition is the best overture to the events of the 11th Festival of Tolerance, whose president is **Branko Lustig**, two-time Oscar winner and survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Impressed and inspired by Brauer's illustrations, he said their vivid colours remind him of the Croatian naive artists.

"For me, Pesah is a holiday of love. I will never forget a moment in Krakow when we were shooting Schindler's List. At the Seder dinner marking the beginning of this holiday, the German actors who played the members of the SS appeared unexpectedly. Steven Spielberg invited them to join us. They approached the actors from Israel and socialized and danced with them until the morning. The dinner symbolically represented reconciliation and love. I have forgiven the Germans and think that not all of them are to blame. For the events of World War II, only the Nazis and fascists are to blame. It is for this reason that our Festival of Tolerance shows films about Nazis and fascists, we never want this kind of evil to be repeated again", said **Branko Lustig**, thanking **Nataša Popović**, the Director of the Festival of Tolerance, without whom, as he pointed out, there would be no Festival of Tolerance.

Zagreb Mayor **Milan Bandić** announced the construction of a monument to the victims of the Holocaust in Branimirova Street at the Zagreb railway station and a Museum of Tolerance in Radnička Street in the former oil factory.



"The preservation of identity and tradition has become a strong driving force in the struggle against hatred and prejudice. I am here because I believe that life and justice will terminate all acts of hatred and that the light of the exhibition by Arika Brauer will remind us all that the good we do for mankind is not in vain", concluded the Zagreb Mayor.

The exhibition organizer is the **Festival of Tolerance - Jewish Film Festival Zagreb** in partnership with the **Austrian Cultural Forum** and the **Museum of Arts and Crafts**. The exhibition will be open until 16 April, and is on loan from the **Jewish Museum** in Vienna. The Jewish Museum Director Danielle Spera noted the Jewish holiday Pesah is beginning next Monday.

"The beginning of Pesah is marked by the Seder supper, at which the Haggadah is read. At this supper, we ask ourselves why it is special, and the answer is because we are free and no longer slaves. At the end of the Seder dinner, we have a saying "Next year in Jerusalem", and Jerusalem is symbolical for freedom. Freedom is a gift to all of us and it needs to be celebrated every day", notes **Danielle Spera**.

This year's 11th annual Festival of Tolerance will bring more than 60 films to Zagreb, two exhibitions, a book presentation, concerts, educational mornings, round table discussions and as many as eight discussions on socially engaged subjects. The goal of the festival is the preservation of the memories of the victims of the holocaust and the promotion of human rights and freedoms, tolerance and the acceptance of diversity.

Photos by Julien Duval:

<https://app.box.com/s/hfi356imvm0i01t8u2l9issue7th2z00s>

More at: <https://festivaloftolerance.com/>

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