



BOAT PEOPLE / Effi & Amir

Description

Synopsis

Voice over text

"A man fleeing from distress is bound to meet disaster.

When wishing to avoid a snake, a dragon he'll encounter."

This quotation, from the Muslim poet Jalal A-Ddin Rumi, lies in the background of this video piece, which takes place in Paris. Its' frame is a guided tour on the Seine, in one of the showboats called "Bateaux Mouches". The recorded spoken commentary, which accompanies the tourist journey is re-edited in a way that creates a whole different meaning to this ride on the river. By intervening in the scenery we make it more hallucinated and sometimes even threatening.

The main theme of the work is paranoid state of mind, inherited in Israeli society.

This disturbed situation is reflected in the constant state of alert, which expresses itself in aggression, on one hand, or in hiding and denial, on the other. This preoccupation is derived also from our present free will exile in Europe, which brings up the need to deal with the two Histories that haunt us, represented by the snake and the dragon.

Boat People/ 2002/ 06:30 min.

A re-arranged text, originally a recorded commentary from a guided boat-tour on the Seine, reveals a different story; personal, disturbing, haunting. The beautiful monumental scenery is also affected, infected by the new circumstances.

The Re-arranged Text:

Welcome on board the Bateaux Mouches

Thank you for choosing our company to discover Paris from the Seine

The bateaux Mouches invites you to take a trip across Paris and back through the centuries

You will soon celebrate your special time; Your center point will be restored, your face will be re-designed, you will receive an elegant name
The spoken commentary will point out to you all the principal monuments
You will soon discover traces of places which have always been there inside your heart

Arrows on the tele-display units will guide you, pointing out the position of each monument mentioned in the commentary and corresponding to the panoramic views presented

You can measure your journey by the bridges you pass under. In French they're called "ponts".

You are always free to turn back.

Traces of ancient story will guide you

Arrows on the tele-display units will gradually take over

They will point out the position you choose.

This city is different. The system is different. The laws are different.

The public welcomes you with stone

It's time to point your arrows at the opposite way. Restore your balance.

First look inside, under and behind. Can you open your heart in public?

You can measure your journey by the bridges you pass under. Have you seen so many bridges before? Passing under bridges makes you smaller and smaller. Have you seen bridges destroyed?

Bridges you pass under can be burnt down. This can be also the end of your journey.

Is your point of view completely different now? Is it more open? Can this island be your home? Can you see now your center point, the point on which you can build your new ingenious structure?

The ground remains a battle-ground. War became private. War became magnificent. War brings the public together. War is just the background.

Soon we will take your measurements. We will study your face. We can see you work against your own public. This is where your freedom begins.

Back at home you have hearts of stone and stones with hearts, hearts

Your private story became a national story. Arrows mark you still today.

You can start planning your big time; use your charm, use your arms, forget your name. Now you will have to dance the famous western dance.

And still you will be free to keep one eye open to port, one open to your right and one eye in your back.

A monumental city once was called home.

National war gradually became a private battle against the national

Universal point of view is always welcome

Stones mark places you pass through

Can your arms reach the waters below you?

Soon you will forget the spoken commentary too.