



NEAR

EAST

The project "Near East" was originally commissioned by the Digital Art Lab in Israel (curator; Galit Eilat) and "Vinyl/Video™" (www.vinylvideo.com) as a video work to be printed on Vinyl Video disc.

Near East exists also as an independent video work, where the 9 video and audio tracks are divided to synchronised two screens (or one split screen), based on the Side A / Side B division on the vinyl record.

Introduction:

As indicated in the press release that follows, Near East is an attempt to reconstruct a registration of an historical event – that of the Zeppelin's tour above Palestine, which was hardly documented. We would like to treat this forgotten episode as a key-experience of the still ongoing east-west fascination/complexion.

Like the vinyl album, these relations are made of to sides, and so does the Zeppelin flight. One side belong to those who are touring, and the direction of their gaze is from above downwards, and the other side is that of the locals, who are visited by the zeppelin, and are looking up high.

The two parties are both attracted and frightened, and the historical fact, that the zeppelin has never landed on the land of Palestine, sustains this gap un-bridged.

Near East (the original work):

This video record aims to revive an extinct vinyl format; the souvenir album- special vinyl additions, printed in commemoration of a significant (usually national/ historical) event. And it also aims to revive a forgotten incident;

On 1929 the German airship, the Graf Zeppelin LZ-129, made its first "orient tour"; departed from Freidrichshafen, entered Palestine over Haifa bay, then circled above Palestine for few hours before returning to its base. This event, though extremely attractive, both from air and ground, was hardly documented. In the "near east" album, Effi and Amir reconstruct the historical event based on facts and fantasies. Most texts and images in this album are real ones, but they have been mixed, animated and manipulated in order to create a personal interpretation of what historical documents tell us (or don't). The 2-sides structure is used to tell a 2-sided story, "side A" takes the local point of view and "side B", the passengers'.

Intention:

we intend to re-edit the work as a projection for 2 projectors, thus keeping the 2-sides tension. The location of the two projections in relation to each other is not yet decided, as it will depend on specific space features, and on the final editing;

The two videos will be screened on the same screen, from its opposite directions, like onto the two sides of a coin, allowing only one side to be viewed in one sight. But they both share a soundtrack (which is not the case in the original work), while the distribution of sound in the space (using panning etc.) plays a role in the narration and the focal point. The shared soundtrack emphasized the fact that the event itself is singular, while its interpretations, implications and the way it is perceived might be totally different.

- The “NEAR EAST, A souvenir album of the Zeppelin Orient Tour” album contains the following tracks:

Side A

1. Here She Comes
2. Fear through Joy
3. The Visit A
4. E! (-lu Tzi-po-rim) (If Birds)
5. a souvenir (private collection)

Side B

1. Du Zeppelin
2. Testimonies
3. The Visit B
4. Come Take A Trip in my Airship

- Rough sketch of an optional installation

