

Adi Nes Images

“Mr. Nes, has explored issues of Israeli identity and masculinity in his photographic work by creating visual tableaux that are often influenced by art history and philosophy. He takes ordinary Israelis, and the occasional actor, and poses them as if he were both cinematographer and screenwriter. [...] He used the Bible as a sort of spinal cord of Israeli society, creating contemporary representations of Abraham and Isaac, Cain and Abel, Ruth and Naomi, and Job. After 20 years of creating these fictional visual narratives, Mr. Nes has come to the conclusion that all the strands of his existence form his art — and all the layers that exist in his art — exist inside of him. After all, he is a Sephardic gay man who grew up in a development town, as well as a photographer and artist. He is an outsider. And an Israeli — which is sometimes difficult for him to define.”

James Estrin, “The New York Times”

Adi Nes’ work is bound up in one of the central debates engaging the Israeli art world. That is, the debate surrounding the representation of Israeli identity, or “Israeliness”. Adi Nes’ photographs challenge the conventional modes of representation of Israeliness. In his works, Nes reconstructs the central arena in which Israeliness takes shape: the army. This is not an action of reconstruction and reaffirmation of canonical symbols of Israeliness, but a dispute with them. Nes pulls rejected and repressed representations of Israeliness out of the drawer. These representations are embodied in his work in the form of homosexual masculinity. Nes advances these rejected representations out from the dusky periphery of the stage to its forefront, where they play the “leading roles” in the photographic scene - roles which were to date reserved for standard Israelis. The response is one of shock, and the observer is forced to re-evaluate his usual perception of Israeliness.

*Arguments of the Judges in Awarding the Prize
of the Israeli Minister of Science, Culture and Sport*

**Adi Nes’ works have been presented
in numerous solo and group exhibitions:**

- 2019 Ballarat International Foto Biennale, Australia
- 2018 MUZA, Eretz Israel Museum, Tel-Aviv
- 2017 Galerie Praz-Delavallade, Paris, Los Angeles
- 2013 The Nude Man in Art from 1800 to the Present Day. Musée d’Orsay, Paris
- 2012 Jack Shainman Gallery, New York



Adi Nes, Untitled (from the "Soldiers" series), 1994



Adi Nes, *Narcissus* (from the "Boys" series), 2000



Adi Nes, Untitled (from the "Village" series), 2012



Adi Nes, Untitled (Hagar; from the "Biblical Stories" series), 2006



Adi Nes, Untitled (Ruth & Naomi), 2006



Adi Nes, Untitled (from the "Village" series), 2012



Adi Nes, *Elijah* (from the “Biblical Stories” series), 2006



Adi Nes, *Abraham and Isaac* (from the "Biblical Stories" series), 2006



Adi Nes, *Joseph* (from the "Biblical Stories" series), 2006