

Sweating Sweet, 2008

Orit Raff

Video, 9:20 minutes

In the video *Sweating Sweet*, I am seen walking slowly, barefoot, on the beach, along the coastline. I am wearing a white pinafore with a pocket that resembles an additional abdomen, from which I take sugar that I scatter into the salty sea water. The pocket with the sugar becomes an integral part of my stomach, the sugar a product of my body and my work.

Of course, the attempt to turn the salty sea water into sweet water fit for drinking and irrigation fails. My attempt to "repair" the sea, to deconstruct a given situation, is a Sisyphean task doomed to failure. Every wave breaking upon the beach "corrects" the disturbance I create.

The angle of the camera plays an important role; my figure is mostly seen from a distance, tiny in relation to the vast space—the language of mythology. However, when the camera zooms in for a close-up, the act becomes personal, individual; the video offers an intimate display of my body, a journey in which what changes is not the scenery but the body itself.

Changing the rules, disrupting the existing order, is a frequent motif in my work. The topic of "Rupture and Repair" itself contains an opposition that is the slippery space I work in: between stability/instability, the ordinary/the exceptional, the familiar/the strange, the peaceful/the catastrophic. These themes are even more promising when forever arrested in all their ambiguity.

Orit Raff was born in Israel in 1970. She lives in Tel Aviv.

