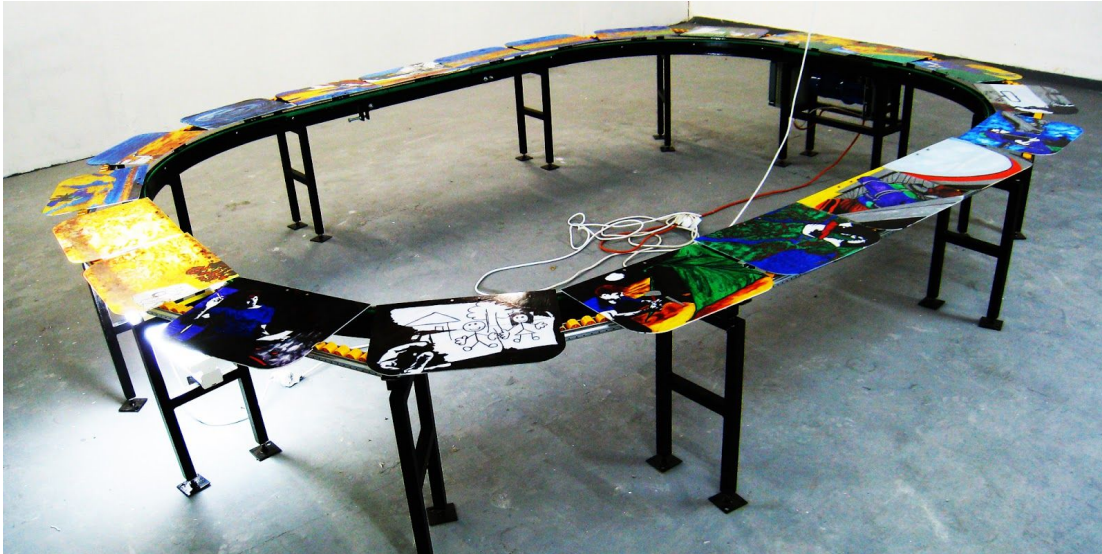


Where is Yonatan Ullman traveling to?

Tomer Perry

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Yonatan Ullman, 'Self Motion', 2008

Like every good voyage, Ullman's journey on the conveyor belt is directed inward. Ullman is an artist, therefore his inward journey toward himself is a journey into art, into the work of art, and into himself making the work of art which we are seeing.

Like every good Israeli, Ullman searches for his inner self out there. He packs the ability to draw, which has accompanied him since childhood, and rotates it around a conveyor belt (which alludes to airport baggage claim conveyor belts) in his crusade to conquer the great wide world. There, farthest from his natural habitat, he gazes deep into himself, and sees his art reflecting himself, reflecting his art reflecting himself, and so on...

But a journey has its own requirements, and it first of all requires time. If you are not ascending step by step, then you are bound to descend. Even when you pause to look around, the journey continues. It doesn't wait for you. In order to truly capture the moment you have to chase it, to make an effort, to swim against the current, or if to be more accurate, to chase after the current. This conveyor-journey forces you to consider every moment. Experience it before it escapes. Actually, it will flee regardless. Therefore, what honestly matters is what you do with your time during your journey. It is useless to pause and try to find yourself. The conveyor continues to rotate. But, if you are looking for yourself as you are making art, you might stumble across it without having to stop. It is blatantly tautological to an extent that it is unclear why it is so rare. How to stop without stopping? How to search without seeking? Possibly art provides one of many plausible answers, but that's the one that Yonatan Ullman found, or perhaps was searching for - or perhaps both.

