



BoundariES

MICHAL GREENBOIM

ATisch (literally 'table' in yiddish) is a celebration in hasidic Jewish communities which usually center on the Rebbe, the spiritual leader of the community. Tisches typically feature singing and dancing to religious tunes and songs and lessons in Torah or ethics from the Rebbe, as well as food and wine. As the tisch is as much a religious event as a social gathering, men and women are separated at such gatherings, with the men being closer to the Rebbe.

In "Boundaries," I present a closed religious community which lives in the ghetto - as a closed-off and isolated community. They close themselves off from the outside world, and the western world isolates them from it. To the world they seem strange and foreign and therefore they are frightening and worrisome. Their world intrigues me very much, I am also a religious Jew, but not like them. They are called 'ultra-orthodox.' I had rare opportunities to photograph them at a personal tisch that only a few are invited to. As a woman I sat in the women's section.

I experienced the tisch from the female point of view. The men are the ones who sang and danced, tasted the challah and tasted the wine which was poured for the most distinguished of those gathered. - The women sat upstairs and could observe the celebration only through the glass. But I still felt that the women around me were excited by the size of the gathering.

In the public space the joy was different, the families were like any normal family I know, the fathers played with the children, the women chatted and served food, I observed their intimate moments, in personal prayer in the public garden, and in loving embrace in view of the sea. Only their clothes were different. The men with white shirts and tzitzit sticking out, and the women with long skirts and head coverings. I felt that they needed to create boundaries between themselves and the world and differentiate themselves from us in order to have an identity different from ours. And it is easier for them to create a sense of belonging to a community, a community other than mine.

Are differentiation and boundary-setting the key to creating an identity, or is it rather the opposite?



Black and White
Archival print
Edition of 10



Tisch 2
Archival print
Edition of 10



The Bow
Archival print
Edition of 10



Praying Hands
Archival print
Edition of 10



Peos
Archival print
Edition of 10



Fool Around
Archival print
Edition of 10



Hannuka
Archival print
Edition of 10



Menora
Archival print
Edition of 10



Girls
Archival print
Edition of 10



Hannuka Kid
Archival print
Edition of 10



Boundreis
Archival print
Edition of 10



Lighting
Archival print
Edition of 10



Family Time
Archival print
Edition of 10



Praying
Archival print
Edition of 10



Roller skates
Archival print
Edition of 10



The Moon
Archival print
Edition of 10



Kite
Archival print
Edition of 10



Three Kids
Archival print
Edition of 10



Couple
Archival print
Edition of 10

Bio

Michal Greenboim photographer (Israeli/USA,) is an internationally-exhibited artist, with her work held in several solo shows, at institutions such as the Griffin Museum of Photography, FotoNostrum Gallery and Davis Orton Gallery. Her photographs are the subject of two monographs, Orchard trail (Self-published, 2016), On Our Journey Home (Artist book and self, 2021). She was also made a short film, But I am here (self 2019) an environmental project.

Her work has been recognized with awards including The 14th Pollux awards, Winner, Julia Margaret award, LACP 4th member show, PDN Exposure Award (2017). Color award, honorable mention, (2017), PDN sense of place award, 3rd place (2016) and International Photography Award, honorable mention, (2016).

Her work has also been shown at Foto Nostrum, Spain (2020), at the Griffin Museum of Photography, MA, (2018 & 2019), Center for the photography arts, CA (2019), A, Smith Gallery, Tx (2018 & 2019), San Diego Museum of photographic Arts, CA (2018), Los Angeles center for the photography, CA (2016 & 2017), Davis Orton Gallery, NY (2017), Tilt Gallery, AZ (2017), Photoplace, VT,(2017),

Her work has been published in Bnei Brith Magazine (2019), Boston Globe (2018), Center for photographic Art, (2019), A Smith Gallery Catalogue,(2018 & 2019) Millennium Images (2018), What You Will Remember (2018), Under exposed Magazine, (2017), All About Photo (2017 Foto Nostrum Gallery Magazine (2021)

Michel holds a Master in Fine Arts (MFA) in Media Arts at Maine Media College, Rockport, Maine.