

CultureCatch®

Home

Main

- Home ■
- Dusty's Music ■
- Dusty's Curiosities ■
- Video Webcasts ■
- Audio Podcasts ■
- Quote of the Week ■
- Events ■

Read Reviews

- Music ■
- Film ■
- Literature ■
- Theater ■
- Art ■

Archives

- Video Webcasts ■
- Audio Podcasts ■

Navigation

- Recent posts ■
- Art Review ■
- Literary Review ■
- Literary Review ■

Search Go!

Recommendations

[Sign Up](#) Create an account or log in

-  **The Heart of Darkness**
30 people recommend this.
-  **The Thing Itself: Mira Schoenberg**
126 people recommend this.
-  **Jazz Starter Kit – 50 Album**
45 people recommend this.

[Facebook social plugin](#)

The Heart of Darkness

April 21, 2012 - 00:45 — Frankie Decalza...

Retweet 2 Like 43 Send

Eugene Lemay: *Navigator*
Mike Weiss Gallery

The way I entered Eugene Lemay's exhibit was not the way I left it. At first glance I was baffled by what initially seemed like enormous black rectangles lining the gallery space. The size of the work left me feeling alienated and lost, aimlessly meandering through the gallery, not quite sure where it starts and ends, my eyes shifting from one enormous black abyss to the other.

So I went back to beginning. This time, I decided to navigate myself through this seemingly bleak space. Lemay previously served as a navigator in the Israeli army, which ended up being integral to how I approached this exhibition. He wants us to look into the darkness and discover what is really there. I would even go as far as to say the exhibition is interactive, inasmuch as you can act the role of navigator; I had more control over what I saw than I first perceived.

Of course, this is in no way a simulation of what it's like to be a navigator in the Israeli army, but it forces you to think about how real of a circumstance that is. Knowledge of Israel, the Israel/Palestine conflict, and the Israeli military resurfaces as you come to terms with the context he is coming from.

I then stepped into these enormous black rectangles and it became a real, lived experience. Each painting is covered in Hebrew letters from deceased soldiers to their families. Suddenly the exhibition becomes less about you and your experiences and about the shared experiences of Lemay and the people he served with, documented by his artwork.

It's important to describe the Mike Weiss Gallery space. It's a narrow, long space, which facilitates Lemay's concept. The exhibition starts off bright, but as you walk down the gallery it gradually gets darker until you reach a small back room, until, where you'll find six iPads with hypnotic visuals.

The iPads did throw me off slightly, but then I remembered Bjork had endorsed the iPad on her recent *Biophilia* tour, and I really appreciated the fearlessness of artists engaging with new technologies and not rejecting them.

Lemay's *Navigator* demonstrates his fearlessness as an artist. He forces us to think about situations that most of us will never have to endure. We are immersed in darkness and are compelled to make sense of an initially confusing array of artwork. It is a rewarding exhibition that requires you to be a thoughtful, pensive spectator; it is a must-see. - *Frankie Decalza Hutchinson*

Mike Weiss Gallery is at 520 West 24th Street in Manhattan.

I co-write the BLASIAN.US site. London native now based in Brooklyn. Writing gives me so much joy and happiness.

 SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892



Add a comment... 

Warning: this comments plugin is operating in compatibility mode, but has no posts yet. Consider specifying an explicit 'href' as suggested in the documentation.

[Facebook social plugin](#)



Art Review