

## Edi Hila

### *Transitionnal Landscapes*

*Exhibition from 16th January to 7th March 2009*

*Opening on the 15th January - 6.00 AM to 9.00 PM*



Edi Hila « CASA CON IL MURO », 2000, Acrylic on canvas, 130 x 136 cm

JGM Galerie proudly presents Albanian artist Edi Hila's works from the 16th of January to the 7th of March 2009.

First solo show in France curated by Ami Barak.

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## Edi Hila

16th January - 7th March 2009



VISTRA DALLA FINESTRA, 2007, Acrylic on canvas, 54 x 72,5 cm

### Edi Hila - Transitionnal Landscapes

In the Balkan art scene recently flourished art personalities who build their careers out of the national frontiers, and Albania is a particularly interesting case with artists such as Anri Sala and Adrian Paci. Especially in Tirana – the Albanian capital – where lives and works the artist Edi Hila, who appeared as a central character and one of the most important revelations of painting today thanks to the major international exhibitions he took part.

Edi Hila was born in 1944 in Shkoder and his biography reveals he faced with many difficulties during a more than 20 years period. Accused by authorities to act as a « deviationist » painter, Edi Hila has been banned by the regime in the 70s and forbidden to show his work what forced to work as a docker. In the 90s, the artists painted again and after the downfall regime, he gained the attention of major art curator René Block and Harald Szeeman, who prospected in Albania, and invited Edi Hila to show his painting in important international exhibitions.

The works of Edi Hila are each a point of view on a transitionnal landscape, a context not only political but deeply social. Like all Balkan countries, the transitionnal state is subconstantal to each detail of the country and of the cities. Showing abandoned modern architectures, the artist reveals their paradoxes with a veil of mystery. Edi Hila also points the business organisation aradigm of Albanian people who create artisanal items they sell through a street micro business. This contemporary world, both Europeen and Balkan but moreover global, is shown on television pictures, street and interior scenes, a world that came to an end, that reinventing itself, that tells about History and that set upside down landscapes perrenity, brutality inflicted but also the singular aspect of each part of this world.

Inviting Edi Hila after Ion Grigorescu, JGM Galerie confirms its second step in the Balkans, with the will to reveal in France singular art characters whose work quality deserve the artworld's best attention.

Ami Barak  
Curator of the exhibition

# JGM.

Galerie

## Edi Hila

16th January - 7th March 2009

WORKS 1/2



*CASA CON IL MURO, 2000*  
Acrylic on canvas  
130 x 136 cm



*CASA IN BLU, 2000*  
Acrylic on canvas  
112 x 145 cm



*NUOVI ARRIVATI, 2005*  
Oil on canvas  
110 x 130 cm



*LA SPIGGIA, 2005*  
Acrylic on canvas  
90 x 135 cm



*BANLIEUE - THE RED HOUSE, 2008*  
Acrylic on paper  
84 x 114 cm



*IN THE STREET - WEDDING DRESS, 2007*  
Acrylic on canvas  
91,5 x 103,5 cm

*All photos courtesy JGM. Galerie*

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## Edi Hila

16th January - 7th March 2009

WORKS 2/2



LA MAMA, 2000  
Acrylic on canvas  
98 x 149 cm



SHETIT JE ME GOMON, 2003  
Acrylic on canvas  
98 x 149 cm

All photos courtesy JGM. Galerie



Press Contacts :

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## Edi Hila

BIO 1/2

*16th January - 7th March 2009*

*Born in Shkodër, Albania 1944, lives and works in Tirana*

- 1993 Academic Dean University of Visual Arts, Tirana Academy of Arts*
- 1991 Professor of Painting, University of Visual Arts, Tirana Academy of Arts*
- 1967 Graduated in Painting at the Tirana Academy of Fine Arts*

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2008 Senza angeli, Villa Romana, Florence  
Galleria Zeta, Tirana*
- 2007 Disegni non presentati. 1970-1989, Gallery Zeta, Tirana*
- 2006 Suburban, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe*
- 2004 Galleria delle Arti del Kosovo, Prishtina*
- 2001 Skendi Gallery, Tirana*
- 1998 Komfort, National Gallery, Tirana*
- 1996 Galerie de Vergere, Sion, Zvicer*
- 1994 Ikast herning, Danimarke*
- 1993 AKUD Gallery, Berlin*
- 1992 Galleria Cobra Bruksel*
- 1991 Icast-Herning, Denmark  
National Gallery, Tirana*

### COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2007 René Block and the Biennale de Cetinje Portfolio, Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris, France.*
- 2006 Art, Life & Confusion, October Salon, Belgrado  
Adrian Paci presents: Edi Hila e Giovanni De Lazzari, francesca kaufmann, Milan  
Interrupted Histories, Lubljana Museum of Contemporary Art*
- 2005 International Prize Onufri 2004 National Gallery. Tirana  
TIRANA BIENNALE 3 Sweet Taboos. Tirana*
- 2004 Cetinje Biennial V, LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT  
Reappearance, Museum of Kosovo, Prishtina*
- 2003 Wien. The Essl Collection, BLOOD&HONEY/ Futures in the Balkans  
Kunsthalle Fridericianum - Kassel , IN DEN SCHLUHTEN DES BALKAN*
- 2002 Small Brother, International Prize "Onufri 2002", Second Prize, National Gallery, Tirana*
- 2001 Beautiful Strangers, Ifa Gallery, Berlin  
ilhouettes, TIRANA BIENALE e pare, Tirana  
The Art of Balkan Countries, Thessalonica, Greece*

## Edi Hila

BIO 2/2

*16th January - 7th March 2009*

- 2000 *Zoumboulakis Gallery, Athens*  
*After the Wall, Ludwig Museum, Budapest*  
*After the Wall, Hamburger Bannhof, Berlin*  
*In and Out, National Gallery Tirana*  
*Galerie Chantal Crousel, Paris*
- 1999 *48th Biennale of Venice*  
*International Prize Onufri 99, First Prize, National Gallery, Tirana*  
*Art & May, Bari, Italy*  
*Albania Today, 48th Edition of Venice Biennial, Albanian Pavillion*  
*Albanische Kunst Heute, Haus am Lutzowplatz, Berlin*  
*After the Wall, Moderna Museet, Stockholm*
- 1998 *Gallery XXI. Tirana*  
*International Prize Onufri 98, First Prize, National Gallery, Tirana*  
*Biennale Internazionale, Kairo*
- 1997 *Reorientation, the Porcelain Factory, Tirana*  
*International Prize Onufri 97, National Gallery, Tirana*  
*First Mediterranean Biennial. Tuniz*  
*Espace Malraux, Chambéry, France*
- 1996 *Grenoble, France*  
*Aix les Bains, France*  
*Belley, France*  
*National Exhibition, Onufri, National Gallery, Tirana*  
*The First Mediterranean Biennial, Tunis*  
*Centre National d'Art et d'Essai, LUCERNAIRE, Paris.*  
*The International Biennial of Cairo*  
*Permanent Instability, International Prize Onufri 98, National Gallery, Tirana,*
- 1994 *Hotel de Ville, Yverdon, Switzerland*
- 1993 *Neue Galerie, Graz, Austria*  
*National Exhibition Onufri 93, First Prize, National Gallery, Tirana*
- 1972 *Pranvera 72, First Prize, National Competition, National Gallery, Tirana*

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2008 « *Petrified Psychograms* » Antje Mayer dans *Report Magazine*, numéro 2
- 2006 « *Edi Hila* » Edi Muka dans *Frieze*, numéro 99