

BLOCK OF CLAY

ROEY VICTORIA HEIFETZ &
ZOHAR MELINEK EZRA

7:24 min | 2019

Block of Clay is a video by artist Roey Victoria Heifetz and filmmaker Zohar Melinek Ezra. In her monologue, Roey Victoria talks about feelings of alienation from her own body, and the many years of not admitting her true gender. She reveals herself to the camera, while in the process of gender transition. The viewer's gaze moves around her body from different angles, closer and farther away, showing all the flaws and weaknesses of the body.

Roey Victoria Heifetz is a multidisciplinary artist. Recent solo exhibitions include *Victoria* at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, *Confessions* at St. Johannes Evangelist, Berlin, and *The Teacher's Nap* at Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin. She has won the Rudolf Augstein Foundation, Ari and Ann Rosenblatt Prize for Visual Art, Berlin Lottery Art Foundation, and the Marianne Werefkin Prize for Women Artists.

Zohar Melinek Ezra is a filmmaker and artist. His films have been shown in festivals, winning the best series award at the St. Lawrence International Film Festival, the Baltimore Media Festival, and the Hollyweb Festival (*Spectrums*, 2017, together with Afek Testa Launer), and best experimental film at the Toronto Film Week (*Nation's Legacy of Severance*, 2014).

The film was produced with the support of: The Israel Lottery Council for Culture & Arts, Artis, Ann and Ari Rosenblatt Prize for Visual Art, Makor Foundation for Israeli Films



Creators & Directors:

Roey Victoria Heifetz & Zohar Melinek Ezra

Editor: **Zohar Melinek Ezra**

Cinematographer: **Zohar Melinek Ezra**

Producers: **Roey Victoria Heifetz and Zohar Melinek Ezra**

Translation & Subtitles: **Yarden Stern**

ANTI-TRANSGENDER VIOLENCE

Text by Avi Lubin

One of the main problems experienced by people who are going through gender transition is embedded in the social insistence on the gender binary.

Attempting to conform to societal expectations for their gender, transgender individuals may opt for surgery, hormones, or both. This is extremely difficult if the individual does not "pass" as someone whose gender identity matches the sex that they were assigned at birth (cisgender).

The trans body is highly significant in regard to the extreme discrimination trans people suffer in all spheres of society, including employment, education, healthcare, etc. Many trans people feel alienated from their body, like strangers in their own body. Many experience it as a site of trauma. This can lead to mutilation, self-harm, and hormone abuse. According to different studies, around 40% of trans people have attempted suicide.

The incompatibility of the trans body with the gender binary leads society to treat trans people like physical specimens. They are continually reduced to, and defined by their bodies. This makes the transgender community particularly vulnerable to violence, harassment, and sexual assault. This reduction of trans people to being simply a body serves as a factor in stripping them of their "person status," turning them into "non-persons." Thus, the moral and social obstacles for committing otherwise objectionable acts of violence against them is removed. This is why there are people who feel that they can hurt them without deserving punishment, or being marked as having done wrong. At the same time, society is ignoring the abuse committed against the trans community.



SECOND OPINIONS

Sagit Arbel Alon, MD

Dr. Sagit Arbel Alon is a mother of four, a physician and a poet. Arbel Alon is a gynecologist, and the founder and first director of Bat Ami Center for the treatment of sexually abused women and men in Jerusalem. She is currently the Deputy Director of Reuth Rehabilitation Hospital. Arbel Alon volunteers for Physicians for Human Rights. In 2009 she won the Ofer Lider prize for poetry.

Ze'ev Degani

Ze'ev Degani is Principal and CEO of the Hebrew Gymnasia Herzliya and Founder and Chairman of JustSpirulina. He is a teacher and educator, entrepreneur and educational leader. Degani perceives the school as a space that is free of boundaries, that allows the encounter between young people and adults. A space that provides young people with experiences and a place for personal development. He encourages students and teachers to look critically at society, to identify injustices that harm the disadvantaged, and find ways to correct and heal.