

# ARTFORUM

Tel Aviv

**Micha Ullman**

**GIVON ART GALLERY, LTD.**  
**35 Gordon Street**  
**November 24–January 14**



**Micha Ullman, untitled, 2015, watercolor on paper, 27 1/2 x 39".**

*Connected Vessels*, 2016, a work in Micha Ullman's current exhibition, features water flowing through linked containers placed within an iron structure that resembles a table or the tree of spheres from the Kabbalah. Manifesting the law of equilibrium, the water gradually erodes the metal, creating reddish rust. Every so often, the sculpture requires refilling because of dehydration and the creation of this corrosion.

Ullman, a wizard of Israeli art, is best known for his Land art, particularly his dramatic static structures that have a strong presence but that are sometimes almost invisible. For *Land Exchange*, 1972, he dug three cubic feet of earth from his town and exchanged it with the same from a neighboring Arab village. For *Water*, 1996, he installed two sewer lids imprinted with his hand, one in West Jerusalem and the other in East Jerusalem. For the most part, equilibrium is maintained under the surface in his works, whereas above ground there is human strife and conflict. In this show, balance is brought above ground, creating a tension between conflict and its resolution. The water, both still and coursing, produces an equilibrium that is never perfect,

forever held in expectation.

Apart from *Connected Vessels*, there are two more metal and water sculptures, as well as a series of delicate water drawings produced like photograms, for which Ullman placed objects on paper and then let water trace their bodies and contours. Ullman likes to describe himself as a photographer, throwing sand on people and objects that are then removed, leaving their mark. In this case it is not sand but water that works like light on paper. As in early photography, the water drawings require a long exposure, registering the passing of time as well as the pendulum of memory and forgetfulness. His body of work heightens our attentiveness to transience as well as to the fact that transience itself testifies to the eternal.

— Roy Brand