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May June 2011



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TARMAC OF TRANSITION

Photography by Naomi Leshem
Text by Katrina Balmaceda



"PHOTOGRAPHY IS SOMETHING VERY STRICT. IT FREEZES THE MOMENT," says photographer Naomi Leshem as she describes her artistic medium. The goal behind all her images: "I want to fight with this medium that freezes reality. I want to talk about reality that's not frozen." Life, after all, is a series of movements. Leshem's images reflect this by showing transitions between two very different states of being. She calls these "combination and dissonance".

Her *Runways* series, photographed during an Israeli summer four years ago, shows a striking discord between two states of being. In the images, a girl, young and carefree under the noonday sun, runs or poses along an airport runway — a strong and manly surface, a dangerous road striped with black skid marks made by landing aircraft. *Runways* tells the story of 18-year-old Israeli girls who are about to be drafted into the army in mandatory service for their country. Leshem spent six months getting permission to shoot on these military airstrips and three months shooting the photographs on film with a Hasselblad. >>



>> For the series, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art gave her the 2009 Constantiner Award, Israel's most important prize for art photography. In 2009, publishing house Benteli Verlag published the series in the book, *Runways*.

Switching to art photography 12 years ago after commercial photography, she now shares this passion with her art photography students. This year, her schedule is filled with exhibitions in different countries, including New York's Andrea Meislin Gallery and Switzerland's Kunst (Zeug) Haus.

www.naomileshem.com 



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I HAVE A VISION"



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THAT FREEZES REALITY"

