

## 'Justine Frank (1900-1943), A Retrospective' by Roece Rosen in Extra City Antwerp

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Roece Rosen is an artist, writer and lecturer; born in Rehovot, Israel in 1963. He now lives in Israel. Recent projects include: the installation 'Justine Frank: A Retrospective' (2003), a novel entitled 'Ziona ...' (2007) about an Israeli super-heroine, and a film called 'The Confessions of Roece Rosen' (2008). In the latter, the artist discards a career replete with lies, scandals, and fake identities; three surrogates – foreign female workers residing in Israel, deliver his confessions. 'The Confessions of Roece Rosen' won a special mention at the FID Marseille 2008, was presented at Manifesta 7 in Trento and will be shown as part of a film programme in the Beursschouwburg in Brussels between 25 and 28 March 2009.

Extra City presents the first-ever European retrospective of the work of Jewish-Belgian Surrealist Justine Frank; this work has not been exhibited in Belgium since her death in 1943. Frank was born in Antwerp, lived in Paris and died in Tel Aviv. Recent inquiries concerning her life, her ethics and her aesthetics continue to yield contradictory responses and create contrary junctures of Twentieth Century culture, yet at each of those junctures she seems to have generated antagonism and confusion in those around her. Frank was a Surrealist during the movement's most radical phase, yet even within that audacious circle they had a problem stomaching Frank's artistic concoction of explicit erotic imagery and Jewish iconography. Furthermore, Frank highlighted her Jewish identity at the time of European Jewry's worst nightmare and near-annihilation; in her depiction of Judaism she intentionally employed imagery culled from the entire genealogy of Western Anti-Semitism; she derided Zionism, yet immigrated to Tel Aviv.

Justine Frank, a Retrospective (1900-1943) in Extra City Antwerp, till March 8th 2009, [www.extra-city.org](http://www.extra-city.org)

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