

Ventilator

Exhibition: **7 Minutes in Heaven**

Organized with Naama Arad

Participating artists: Naama Arad, Eden Bannet, Micha Bar-Am, Pietro Cascella, Ruti de Vries, Noa Glazer, Omer Halperin, Adam Kaplan, Michal Makaresco, Eran Nave, Lior Ophir, Doron Rabina, Tchelet Ram, Ishai Shapira Kalter

Reception: Saturday, November 23, 2019 | 'Gate of Peace', Independence Park, Tel Aviv, IL

In 1972, the artist Pietro Cascella together with the baron and baroness Urvater gifted the sculpture "Gate of Peace" to the city of Tel Aviv where it was installed in The Independence Garden. Twenty-three years later, Yehuda Poliker released "Names Bageshem (Melts in the Rain)," his hit song about the story of a street kid who was kicked out of his parents' house and froze to death on a park bench. Poliker's song echoed a wide phenomenon in Tel Aviv in the 80s and 90s: homeless LGBTQ youth sleeping in parks. At the same time, in The Independence Garden, an ongoing search for sex and intimacy formed a community that safeguarded itself from pink lists and police raids. Up until 2010, the year the city renovated the park, Independence Garden functioned as the main site for cruising, facilitated by its multiple hiding places as well as its proximity to the city center. The city knocked down all the park's hiding places. However, Cascella's sculpture, still in use as a location for casual sex, could not be demolished due to its status as a work of art.

7 Minutes in Heaven is a game we used to play as teenagers at parties where two people are selected to go into a dark enclosed space and do whatever they like for seven minutes. In the context of this exhibition, the analogy between sex and art is clear—in both cases, the desire to make is the result of a strong impulse followed by satisfaction. It is art that deals with the urgency of the urge itself: to sleep, eat, get drunk, and fuck, as well as the need to survive. *7 Minutes in Heaven* is a place where two opposite urges meet; while the sexual drive symbolizes the instinct to live, heaven is postmortem.

- *Naama Arad & Ishai Shapira Kalter*

Checklist:

- Naama Arad, *Pour it Up II*, II, wood, kitchen towel, rubber bands, caulk, 44.5x50.5x1.5 cm, 2019
- Eden Bannet, *Untitled*, mixed media, variable dimensions, 2019
- Micha Bar-Am, *Hotel Alexander (Beirut)*, silver gelatin print, 17.5x26.5 cm, 1982
- Pietro Cascella, *Gate of Peace*, travertine stone, variable dimensions, 1972
- Ruti de Vries, *Savage*, raffia, rope, table, nylon, newspapers, 150X70X90 cm, 2017
- Noa Glazer, *Oblivion bubbles*, Urethane rubber and vodka, 17x20.5x23 each, 2015
- Noa Glazer, *2 ½*, paper mache made with 2 ½ rolls of toilet paper, 27 x 34 x 4 cm, 2018
- Omer Halperin, *Kissing*, charcoal on paper, 46x61 cm, 2018
- Adam Kaplan, *A Huge Steve's Jerusalem Pack*, huge backpack filled with hard boiled egg sandwiches, variable dimensions, 2016-2019
- Michal Makaresco, *Untitled*, clay, comb, variable dimensions, 2017
- Michal Makaresco, *Untitled*, clay, artificial nails, high heel shoe, palm frond, powder makeup, nail polish, variable dimensions, 2017
- Eran Nave, *Erotic Field*, ink on paper, 30x30 cm, 2019
- Eran Nave, *666*, mixed media, variable dimensions, 2011
- Eran Nave, *Time*, mixed media, 8.8x32x2.3, 2011
- Lior Ophir, *עזייעדיע ענגמחני*, xerox print, 29.7x21 cm, ongoing
- Doron Rabina, *Birds' Drinking Dispenser and Gold Paint*, spray paint on birds' drinking dispenser, 28x8x5 cm, 2006
- Tchelet Ram, *Living in a Movie*, bench, projection screen, lamp, hooks, copper tubes, string, drawer, pillow, variable dimensions, 2018
- Ishai Shapira Kalter, *1948#*, Bronze, Variable dimensions, 2019