



Detail of the images:
View from the top
(Surface, section 2)

Surface, a collaborative project in Israel

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Marcelo de Melo

'Surface' is the result of a collaboration between Israel-based artist Irit Orpaz and myself. It originated from our engagement with mosaic art education in Israel, and the re-contextualisation of the medium for 21st century artists and audiences.

Irit Orpaz lives and works in Ramat HaSharon. Her art practice evolved from her career as a fashion designer. Currently she works with ceramics, mosaics and photography.

'Surface' took place in the municipality of Ramat Ha-Sharon and was represented by curator Dr. Sorin Heller, providing the perfect platform for the event at the Bei Yad Lebanim Art Gallery in October 2015.

'Surface' is a site-responsive installation work, composed of a variety of found materials and objects, as well as smaller artworks such as mosaics, sculptures and paintings. Individual items were either gathered locally, by participants invited by the municipality, or brought in by Irit and myself from previous exhibitions and events. 'Surface' functions as a floor assemblage divided in three parts. It uses the idea

of the grid as a means of ordering the surface area of the gallery. In this way, the work juxtaposes the ancient mosaic methodology with contemporary installation practices.

'Surface' can be understood through the concept of trans-functionality, and poses questions of value, hierarchies and material culture among others.

'Trans-functionality is whatever we cannot reply to by 'yes' or 'no'. Play is a momentary trans-functionality which consists of its own unfolding: ephemeral work of an individual or several individuals, successful or not, perfect or not, marvellous or not'. (Lefebvre, 2002, *The Critique of Everyday Life: vol. 2*,

Detail of objects (Surface, section 2)
above:
Detail of objects (Surface, section 3)



Detail of objects (Surface, section 1, size: 440 x 240 x 400 cm)
above
Overview of the installation Surface in 3 sections from the left side of the gallery (overall size: 1500 x 1000 x 400 cm approximately)



London: Verso: p128).
'Surface' consisted of four separate events: the gathering and delivery of materials by invited artists and the communities around Ramat Ha-Sharon, the construction of the installation work by the artists, the exhibition itself (with a well attended opening), and a short video documenting the dismantling of the work by Irit Orpaz and friends. ■

Collaborators:

Cochava Bar-El, Rahiba Baransi, May Bassis, Romi Bassis, Noa Ben-Or, Sharon Boraks-Schwartz, Judith Broitman, Hava Carmeli, Valeria Comerlatte, Aviva Enters, Jacob Faig, Ronit Freund, Einat Gal-Or, Beny Hasser, Lili Hirschberg, Zipi Lustig, Liora Ben Nissan Massika, Dalia Matmon, Audrey Meye-Munz, Rachel Mirski, Rachel Navon, Juri Novak, Ayah Orpaz, Yael Peleg, Roni Rimer, Edna Ronai, Yael Segev, Gali Segev, Tchiya Shahaf, Chava Shmueli, Danit Shmueli, Ely & Avi (Tiv Helek) and Bastiaan van Werven.