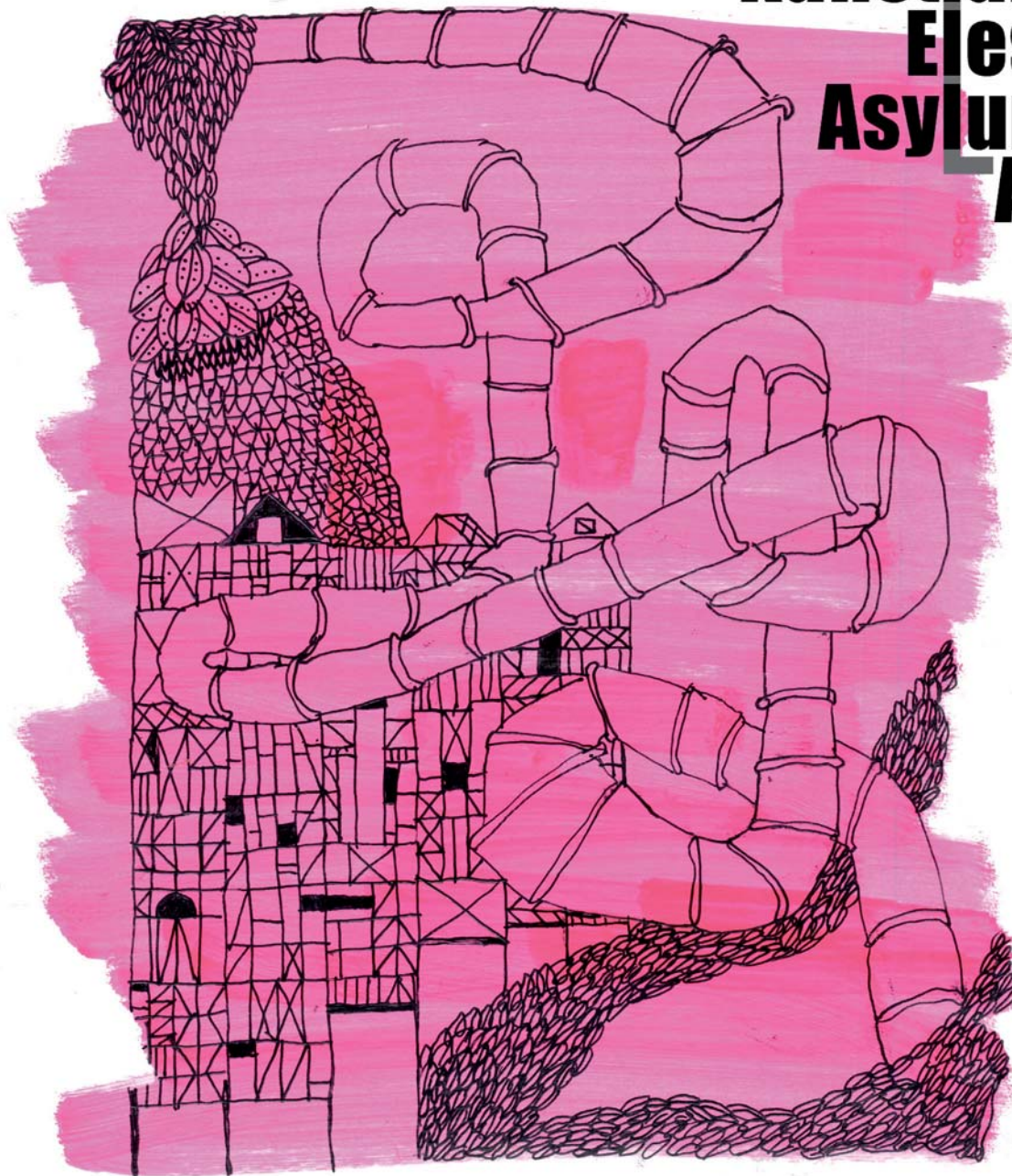


A BERLIN RETREAT  
FOR JEWISH ARTISTS

**Kunstlab  
Eles  
Asylum  
Arts**



**March 27-30, 2017**

# PARTICIPANT BIOS

## Asaf Aharonson

Asaf Aharonson was born outside Jerusalem. He has been trained in air acrobatics as well as dance and choreography, which he received a BA in from HZT Berlin in 2015. Aharonson has had numerous solo and group shows internationally, primarily in the field of dance. Through his art practice he aims to prioritize spending time with others as the primary site for the generation of material for live performance. Asaf's mom, Bosmat, is a gardener. She was born in the south and still often thinks about the desert.

[arlekinooo@gmail.com](mailto:arlekinooo@gmail.com)



## Hila Amit

Hila Amit was born in Kfar Saba, Israel, in 1985. She holds a B.A in Hebrew literature and creative writing from Tel Aviv University, and a PhD in gender studies from SOAS University in London. She is the author of *From Bliss and Onward*, a short story collection published by the prestigious Israeli Publisher Am-Oved (Tel Aviv) in 2016. She has also published three short stories as well as poetry in several literary magazines. Amit's prose deals primarily with the relationships between Israelis and Palestinians, and brings to light Jewish LGBT characters. She was praised in literary reviews for bringing an "outstanding, brave new voice to Hebrew literature." Amit has also published several political articles in various platforms, alongside a few academic articles as well. Currently she is working on her second book, and translating her first book into English.

[hili.amit@gmail.com](mailto:hili.amit@gmail.com)



## Svetlana Azriel

Sveta Azriel was born in Ukraine and immigrated to Israel in 1991. There she graduated from Tel Aviv University in 2008 with a BA in Theatre. She then proceeded to Bet Lessin Theatre where she worked as an assistant director. During the following years, Azriel acquired extensive experience in assistant directing, producing, and stage management at Bet Lessin, National Israeli Theatre Habima, The Camery Theatre and others. Her directing experience included fringe venues such as Tzavta theatre in Tel Aviv and the Tel Aviv University Theatre. In 2013, Azriel left to the UK to do her master's studies. She graduated from the Directors program at the Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London in 2014 with an MFA. During her stay in the UK, Azriel became enchanted by the physical theatre companies such as Complicite, Frantic Assembly and Gecko. She started developing her own physical style in *One Can Work with That*, a new writing piece by Oded Liphshitz, which she translated from Hebrew. Azriel directed in a few new writing evenings in London before deciding to relocate to Germany, and since 2015, she has been living and creating in Berlin. She has developed a theatre educational project with her colleague Tomer Zirkilevich and has worked as dramaturge and acting coach on dance theatre productions. A growing interest in feminine issues combined with her intercultural background inform Azriel's work in "FIT" - a physical theatre performance that aims to explore the dynamics formed among the participants of a fitness studio class. She is interested in investigating human relationships, uncovering the nature of dynamics that we produce, both effective and destructive. Azriel's theatrical style is physical theatre and she is highly interested in producing devised work developed in collaboration with various artists through a creative process.



[svetaazriel.wordpress.com](http://svetaazriel.wordpress.com)

[sveta.azriel@gmail.com](mailto:sveta.azriel@gmail.com)

## Boaz Balacsahn (Bozi)

Boaz Balacsahn aka DIGITALBOAZ is a multi-disciplinary artist, illustrator and animator. He was born in Israel, where he studied animation and screen-based arts at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem, as well as cinematography at the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. Over the past few years, he has taken part in many projects and exhibitions, and has also curated a few. One of his films, "God is Kidding" is considered a major success for an Israeli short documentary animated film, and has been screened in over 60 Film festivals worldwide, winning two awards in Germany alone. Balacsahn has been based in Berlin since 2014, managing the WERKSTATTTRAUM Art Collective where he creates artwork and designs and gives workshops alongside other Berlin artists and designers.



According to the artist, "the process of creating art for me is sometimes the only way for actual or relevant expression. Walking through the streets of different town I've been living in, or the nature that surrounds it, and meeting humans through different social situations or living in their communities is an anthropological experience for me, hiding different realities and hidden characters within it, and can only be expressed through a drawing, a poem, or an animated short. Combining Forms and lines together invokes emotions that help me document the temporality and the beauty of our daily life. Documentary Animation is a great tool when one wishes to express playfully by integrating the different disciplines of drawing, storytelling, design, music and performance and at the same time to stay true to that Anthropological aspect."

[digitalboaz.com](http://digitalboaz.com)

[Digitalboaz@gmail.com](mailto:Digitalboaz@gmail.com)

## Ella Cohen

Ella Cohen is an illustrator and graphic artist working under the name Ellakookoo. Born in Haifa, Israel, she is a graduate of the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem. Since graduating with a B.Des (illustration major) in 2010, she has been working with leading clients both in Israel and abroad. Her client list includes international names like the New York Times, Airbnb, Redbull, the Wall Street Journal and many others. After taking part in the social protests of 2013, she relocated to Berlin to pursue an international career. Her work is frequently showcased by the Society of Illustrators in New York, 3X3 International Show, the British Association of Illustrators and others. Cohen's style is easily recognised by its warm colour scheme and subtle humour. She diligently keeps pace with the latest design and illustration trends, while maintaining a cohesive and distinguished style. Her portfolio was described as '...one of true talent, wit and satire and a style that is developing impossibly quickly into a true pillar of the illustration world' by Liv Siddall of It's Nice That magazine in 2013. As a graduate of the pre-army service year program of 'Amootat Alon,' and a staff member of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art's education department, it is her belief that social change cultivation is embodied in the realms of art education. Prior to her relocation to Germany, she was highly active in the Tel Aviv illustration scene, curating free illustration events like 'sneak peek' (Hosted by Minshar College of Art) and others. Cohen is the recent winner of the prestigious WIA award for her illustration work on the 'Playground Israel Festival' program, which took place in July 2015 in Berlin. She is currently an MA student at Weißensee Kunsthochschule Berlin, and she lives and works in Neukölln.



[ellakookoo.com](http://ellakookoo.com)

[ellakookoo2@gmail.com](mailto:ellakookoo2@gmail.com)

## Maximilian Czollek (Max)

Max Czollek is a poet from Berlin. In 2009, he was a founding-member of G13, a collective of poets from Berlin. He has worked as the German curator for the project "babelsprech" since 2013, which aims to establish a network among young German-speaking poets from Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, South Tyrol and Germany. Czollek has since been organizing readings for the Maxim Gorki Theater, Berlin where he also initiated and co-organized the congress "Desintegration. Ein Kongress zeigenössischer jüdischer Position" in 2016, of which another event is planned for November 2017. Czollek's texts have been published on the internet, in magazines and anthologies. With G13, he published "Das war Absicht" (2013 SuKuLTuR) and "40% Paradies. Gedichte des Lyrikkollektivs G13" (2012, Luxbooks). Czollek published the monographies "Jubeljahre" (Verlagshaus Berlin, 2015) and "Druckkammern" (ibid., 2012). An anthology on young German-speaking poetry "Lyrik von Jetzt 3. Babelsprech" was co-edited by Czollek and published in 2015 (Wallstein Verlag). The ebook "A.H.A.S.V.E.R" was released in 2016 (Verlagshaus Berlin).

Czollek writes of his art: "I am interested in exploring the multiple layers of language and its connection to a representation of the 'Jewish' subject. The focus of my first book 'Druckkammern' has been on the way the violence of the 20th century influences my access to literary traditions and aesthetics. In my second book 'Jubeljahre' I focused on strategies to shift and undermine a process of representation of the Jewish Other. This has also been the focus of my theatrical and performative work at Maxim Gorki Theater. I have come to summarize those activities under the term 'Desintegration.'"

[literaturport.de/Max.Czollek](http://literaturport.de/Max.Czollek)

[max.czollek@gmx.de](mailto:max.czollek@gmx.de)



## Tom Dayan

Tom Dayan was born in Israel in 1984 where he showed musicality at an early age. At the age of 12, he became more intensely occupied with music as a drummer in bands that ranged in genre. Having attended a masterclass with legendary bassist Richard Davis, he began to focus on Jazz. Later he enrolled in the Jerusalem Academy for Music and Dance, where he received a degree in composition. During his studies, Dayan participated in different composition competitions and received first place for two of his New Music compositions. In addition, Dayan is a recipient of a scholarship from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation for 2008-2009 as a jazz drummer. After his studies, Dayan moved to Berlin, Germany in 2009 and currently resides there, taking part in different musical projects, such as the Maria Baptist Trio, Damir Out Loud, and as drummer/composer at the Composers' Orchestra Berlin. His main project since moving to Berlin is his band "Mifrás," which is a Jazz-oriented ensemble consisting of drums, bass, saxophone and trombone. Together they have made two studio albums of Dayan's compositions, the first of which received funding from the Berliner Senat fuer kulturelle Angelegenheiten. In conjunction with that, he has written music for two well-received radio productions: "Charlotte Etwas Verrückt" and "Spazieren in Berlin." Both projects are aired regularly on German and Austrian radio stations.

Dayan writes that "I like to put an emphasis on music being a form of communication that cannot take place without a listening side. My work relates to the listeners and collaborators (through improvisation) and may change depending on the audience and the ambiance of the hall. I think it's important when introducing a new language, that the new piece teaches the language as it goes rather than taking the listener's understanding for granted."

[tomdayan.com/album/set-sail](http://tomdayan.com/album/set-sail)  
[tomation@gmail.com](mailto:tomation@gmail.com)



## Olga Galicka

Olga Galicka was born in Riga in 1990 and she has studied film in Frankfurt, Paris and Milan. She is a multiple laureate at the Treffen Junger Autoren of Berliner Festspiele and fellow of the literary scholarship by Stiftung Niedersachsen. Galicka has been writing for different medias such as ZDF-theaterkanal, Berliner Festspiele, FAZ and Kino-Zeit, and she is currently writing her own column on film and politics. She is also a guest author at Internationales Literaturfestival Berlin, and her work has been published in several magazines and anthologies. Galicka is interested in writing poetry as well as prose, and exploring the boundaries between the genres. She is currently working on her debut.

[olga.galicka@gmail.com](mailto:olga.galicka@gmail.com)



## Daniel Gerzenberg

Daniel Gerzenberg was born in Hamburg in 1991 to a Russian-Jewish family. He has been playing piano since the age of five and has since become a concert pianist, playing concerts on the international stage. At the age of fifteen he started to write poetry and published his first book in 2014 called 'Auf der Suche nach der Rose.' In 2015, he published his translation of Jean-Pierre Siméon's poetic theatre monologue *Against War: Stabat Mater Furiosa*, for which he received the Hamburg Literature Prize. He also worked as an actor, playing in theatre and musical theatre plays, both with piano and traditional roles. In his concerts, Gerzenberg recites his poetry before playing the music. He is currently studying 'Liedbegleitung' at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin in the class of Prof. Wolfram Rieger. Gerzenberg believes that it is through art that we can communicate the beauty of mankind.

[daniel.gerzenberg@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.gerzenberg@gmail.com)



## Amos Geva

Amos Geva was born in Tel Aviv, Israel, while spending his childhood (1991-1995) in Leeds, UK. A film Director/Producer with a strong background in both film and television productions, he focuses on documentary films dealing with Jewish identity and history. Geva graduated a BfA in Film and Television from Tel Aviv University as well as the MEDIA Program for young European Producers "Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris." Geva has worked with international companies in the UK, Germany, France, Brazil and Israel. From 2007-2009, he was a film and video instructor in New York, USA with teens between the ages of 14-17. The "Palm Springs International Shortfest" awarded his film, "The Tour Guide," which is about an Jewish-Israeli tour guide living in Berlin. His works have also been sold to broadcasters such as IBA in Israel, RBB & SWR in Germany and ARTE in France, as well as presented in A-List Festivals worldwide. Most recent projects include films about Israeli-Jewish identity in Berlin today, a WW2 Jewish-french spy-Marthe Cohn- and refugees from Africa and the Middle East in Germany. Amos is among the founding participants of the Israeli Film Festival in Berlin (SERET) and the European representative of T-Port, a digital market for student films.

[amosgeva.com](http://amosgeva.com)

[amosgv@gmail.com](mailto:amosgv@gmail.com)



## Maja Gratzfeld

Maja Gratzfeld is was born in 1982 in Saarlouis, Germany. She is a lens-based artist that has studied at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Dresden, at the Ecole Superieure des beaux-arts de Nimes in France and at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem, Israel. The artist grew up between three different cultures: Western European mainstream, Jewish and Southeast Asian culture which all influenced her artistic language. Her work deals with the interface where different cultures meet and the resulting experience of the struggles of belonging as well as the forming of identity as an individual. The special manner in which her images are realized is imbued with a critical look at society and the socio-historical events, often using motifs from our collective, visual memory. As well, her interest focuses on gender roles following the discovery of her mother's international upbringing and the diversity of cultures that tells the story of her family's heritage. The notion of identity, finds a strong voice within Gratzfeld's work. She takes her background in traditional painting and experimental image research and combines it with the idea of image layering to develop a unique understanding of the photographic process. Gratzfeld works primarily with photography, favoring a traditional analogue process by working in the dark room but also processing works with digital items. She creates mainly Mixed Media art, installations and Objects. Recently she has also created a participative Internet artwork for the Jewish museum in Berlin that will be published in April 2017. Gratzfeld has participated in national and international exhibitions such as the 5th Biennale for Contemporary Art in Azerbaijan and other exhibitions in Israel, France, Poland and Germany. The artist currently lives in Berlin.



[majagratzfeld.com](http://majagratzfeld.com)

[majagratzfeld@gmail.com](mailto:majagratzfeld@gmail.com)

## Tamar Grosz

Tamar Grosz is a dancer and a choreographer whose passion and abilities come out in her performative persona. She also studies physics and chemistry since she believes that being heard in our world as a person and as an artist is always under very specific circumstances. She therefore studies science not only to broaden the experience of her world with such a mesmerizing subject, but to also broaden her circumstances. Grosz is full of love and humor and endless curiosity about life, humanity, this universe, and others. Her art tries to translate complexity into "eat-able" and positive challenging material for audience. Grosz studied for six years at the professional dance high school -the academy- in Jerusalem. She has been performing since the age of 7, and she spent her adolescence performing monthly in the folkloric youth dance group called Hora Jerusalem. Immediately after finishing her studies, she began working in the Batsheva Ensemble, the prestigious contemporary dance company directed by Ohad Naharin. After two years, she started to work as a freelance dancer in the Israeli dance scene, looking for work that explores more deeply the connection to the audience rather than aesthetics. During that time she began her B.A in physics and chemistry at the Open University, which she will soon finish. In 2013, she decided to immigrate to Berlin because of 84 different reasons. In Berlin, she works as a freelance and a choreographer. Her biggest achievement is winning the international-solo-tans-theater 2award in Stuttgart for her solo, "I am not a Jew Israeli vegan lesbian woman I am Tamar." She choreographed for the opening ceremony of the Maccabi games in Berlin summer 2015. In 2016, she toured with her duet piece "women in motion" in Italy and other projects. Tamar founded an artistic platform named FEM for feminine feminist art.

tamargrosz@gmail.com



## Adi Halfin

Adi Halfin is an award winning director and screenwriter, currently living in Berlin. Born in Jerusalem and raised in Jerusalem and London, she is a graduate cum laude of the Sam Spiegel Film School, Jerusalem. During her film studies, she directed three shorts, which have been screened in the prestigious Cannes and Berlinale film festivals and have won significant prizes. In addition to directing documentaries, music videos and commercials, Adi teaches a unique interdisciplinary program at various film schools that examines relations between music videos and art history, deconstructing powerful images and cultural associations. She also teaches production, commercial directing and dance film workshops in Europe, Israel and the US. Her work "HOME ALONE", a collaboration with the Batsheva Dance Company, was a viral hit and has won best short in the San Francisco Dance Film Festival (2014), in Korea's SESIFF festival (2014), Shortwaves Festival, Poznan (2016) and InShadow Festival, Lisbon (2016). To this day its screened in film festivals worldwide. The 15 second clip she directed for Mark Ronson's "Daffodils" won the Genero TV contest, personally selected by Mr. Ronson. Inspired by fine arts, dance and music, Adi is a visual storyteller who believes in letting the rhythm and feel of a cinematic piece tell the story at least as much as dialogue. A visual symbol has the power to evoke strong emotions and leave a lasting impression. The topics that interest her are bending gender boundaries, and the taking apart of constructed identities (from religious and family identities to the very construct of the psyche). She is currently working on two feature films: a true story of one Jew who managed against insane odds to survive the 2nd World War, and a fictional story of a transgender woman who was raised as a Haredi boy in ultra-orthodox Jerusalem.

adihalfin.com

adihalfin@gmail.com



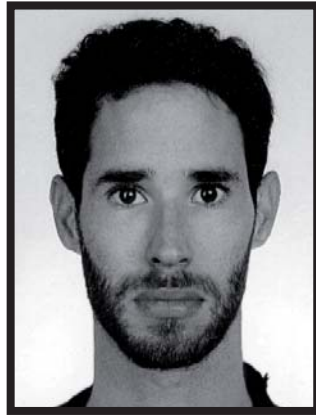


## Itamar Inbar

Itamar Inbar grew up in Tel Aviv. He holds a BFA from Shenkar College of Art and Design where he specialized in Sculpture and Video Art. He is a member and a co-founder of the Tel Aviv-based artists group Anti Mehikon. In summer 2014, Inbar moved to Berlin to live with his German girlfriend. Inbar has had a solo exhibition at the Herzliya Museum (Israel), participated in the Fresh Paint Art Fair (Israel), had a solo exhibition at the Urban Spree Gallery (Berlin) and took part in a group exhibition at the Neurotitan Gallery in Mitte (Berlin). In addition, Inbar participated in several residency programs in Berlin such as the Agora Collective Residency and at the Urban Spree Culture House. Today, Inbar is a resident at the Xtro Atelier in Berlin. Inbar's work takes a critical view of social, political and cultural issues. It raises questions about the complex relationship between the individual and his surroundings. Inbar deconstructs terms like identity, homeland, freedom, memories and morality and building them into artworks that are concept-based, but aimed to provoke emotions. Each of his projects consists of multiple works, often in a range of different media; objects, drawings, video, sound, motors or any other relevant materials. This assemblage of ideas and materials is integrated into clean aesthetic, site-specific installation. Installation is the only medium of art that can surprise Inbar repeatedly in the way he looks, moves and experiences his artwork. The curiosity to experience new materials, techniques and the desire of understanding himself and the community surrounding him are what keeps him going. During research and production, new areas of interest arise and lead him to the next body of work.

[itamarinbar.com](http://itamarinbar.com)

[itamar.inbar@gmail.com](mailto:itamar.inbar@gmail.com)



## Renen Itzhaki

Renen Itzhaki was born in Tel Aviv, March 1988, and absorbed art from a very young age. He graduated from Tel Aviv School of Arts and Thelma-Yellin Highschool for the Arts, where he received the highest grade in theatre studies. In September 2011, after several years of working in the production field (Tmuna Theatre, Docaviv Festival) he moved to Berlin in order to focus on his own work. From 2012 until 2016 he studied at the BA program "Dance, context, choreography" at the Interuniversity Center for Dance (HZT) Berlin. During this time, Itzhaki has developed his unique fingerprint as an interdisciplinary artist in the (crossing) fields of performance art, installations, choreography, video work and theatre. Itzhaki tends to blur the borders between performers and spectators, thus creating a flexible structure in which everyone can participate. In his works, he reflects on the status of art nowadays, on processes of creation and on institutional critique. "A Reflection on an Institution" (Berlin, April 2015) is a series of installations, happenings and interventions regarding the role of art education. This work was invited to be part of the German "Tanzkongress" (Hannover June 2016), which happens once in three years. "Portrait" (Amsterdam, September 2015) is a dance solo on the topic of sexual violence and crippled masculinity. The work was invited to be shown in Finland (May 2016). "Natyadharmi" (Berlin, April 2016) is a full theatre play for 10 characters, originally written and directed. Besides his work as a maker, Itzhaki has worked in collaborations with different artists. He is a member of the Berlin-based collective "The Breakfast Club", and worked with artists such as Lia Rodrigues (Rio de Janeiro), David Weber-Krebs (Brussels), Sandra Man+Moritz Majce (Berlin), Florian Feigl (Berlin) among others.



[vimeo.com/user23088560](https://vimeo.com/user23088560)

[renen30@gmail.com](mailto:renen30@gmail.com)

## Arkadij Khaet

Arkadij Khaet was born right before the collapse of the Soviet Union on the territory of today's Moldova. Just a few weeks old, he immigrated with his family to Germany. Since his childhood, people told him that he is an incredible liar, a trait that made him predestined for filmmaking. After growing up and finishing school he spent time living in Israel. Later on he moved to Cologne and began to study directing. During his studies he experienced all different fields of filmmaking and decided to establish the production company "Freigeist|Film GbR" with three of his fellow students, intending to produce his own films. THROUGH THE CURTAIN is his first narrative film as a director. Besides many awards in festivals worldwide, the film won the German Human Rights Award for film. Apart from freelancing, writing, living and pondering in life, he is working with his fellows on their new movie HIKIKOMORI which was released at the end of 2016 and he continues his studies in film directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. For Khaet, making movies for is the ultimate combination of all kinds of art and the best expression of his mind that he can think of.



[augohr.de/catalogue/durch-den-vorhang](http://augohr.de/catalogue/durch-den-vorhang)

[Arkadijkhaet@gmail.com](mailto:Arkadijkhaet@gmail.com)

## Yair Kira

After studying chemical engineering and working as project manager in Israel Yair Kira decided to make a change in his professional life and study product design. After two years of intensive private lessons by the Artist Yael Tiecher in Israel he moved to Germany and started his studies in Berlin University of the Arts.

Kira is an active member of the Berlin art and design community. In 2013, together with a group of artists, he founded the art space "Group Global 3000" and he is a member of the Sustainable Design Center association. In his fifth semester of school, Kira was chosen to participate in an exchange semester program with the Pratt Institute in New York. During his time there he had the opportunity to design a shop in Bryant Park in the heart of Manhattan. After coming back to Berlin, he did a half-year Internship in Fab Lab Berlin where he learned about open source design and digital fabrication. With this experience he was offered to work as a designer for "Makea Industries" where he works till this day. Working both on functional and conceptual designs, Kira has exhibited his works in private and group exhibitions as well as in Design Festivals and fairs in Germany. Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk supports Kira's studies and he is currently working on his bachelor's in design thesis that will be presented in the beginning of 2017.



[yairkira.com](http://yairkira.com)

[yair.kira@gmail.com](mailto:yair.kira@gmail.com)

## Ofri Lapid

Ofri Lapid's work explores social and political agencies invested in the making of cultural heritage and their manifestations in academic research, in the field, and in the museum realm. She works in various mediums such as video, photography, print and installation. Since 2012 she has been traveling and taking part in residencies in various remote villages, such as rural Bulgaria, Finland, Rajasthan and the Peruvian Amazon, realizing site specific installations that recreate museum displays in a local rural setting. Lapid's work was exhibited in various exhibitions, including in NGBK "It is Only a State of Mind", 2013, Berlin, "Mythographs" Apartment project, 2014, Berlin and in "Vot Ken You Mach", 2014, Kunsthau Dresden. Her work was published in various magazines, HaRAMA, Art and Deal, India and EDNO Magazine Bulgaria. Her recent essay and visual contribution "On the Surface of Text" will be published soon in Object Notes magazine of art and design in Berlin/Mexico City. Since 2015 she take part in the PhD in Practice program at the Hochschule für Bildende Kunst, Hamburg. Her dissertation examines the relations of exchange between European researchers and West-Amazonian indigenous communities from first encounters, throughout scientific and religious endeavors to their contemporary transformation into jungle tourism. Her research project takes a special interest in the academic debate concerning the meaning of the ambiguous pattern-drawing practices of the Shipibo-Conibo community and the assimilation of these theories in the prevailing cultural narrative.

[ofrilapid.com](http://ofrilapid.com)

[info@ofrilapid.com](mailto:info@ofrilapid.com)



## Gergely Laszlo

Gergely László (1979) is a Hungarian artist, and he lives and works Berlin. His works are known under the collective authorship of Tehnica Schweiz. Tehnica Schweiz is an artistic collaboration between Gergely László and Péter Rákosi, ongoing since 2005. Tehnica Schweiz often collaborates with Serbian borne artist, Katarina Sevic. Tehnica Schweiz has been exhibited internationally in: Secession, Wien; Ernst Museum Budapest; ISCP, New York; Ludwig Museum, Budapest; NBK, Berlin; ZKM, Karlsruhe; New York Jewish Museum; acb Gallery, Budapest; Kunsthau Dresden, Rennes Biennale, 21Haus, Vienna and more. TSCH regularly work around the theme of community and collaboration, alternative models in communal existence. In recent works, like The Garage Project (2007-2009), The Collective Man (2008-2010), The Heroes of the Shaft (2011), Gasium et Circenses (2012-2013), Alfred Palestra (2014-2015) they have been relying on the participation of a large group of volunteers and friends. The communal is both the instrument and the object of these projects. In every instance they engage in community-based processes, they seek for solutions concerning the ethical trap that is inherent is such practices. In all of their projects they try to challenge their background and how they perceive the recent history's problematic mixture of socialism and post-socialist conditions that come with in the process of democratization. The legacy of socialism gives an unavoidable framework to every socially-aware action, and the position of the artist in our society today.

[tehnicaschweiz.com](http://tehnicaschweiz.com)

[gergely.laszlo@gmail.com](mailto:gergely.laszlo@gmail.com)



## Daniel Laufer

Daniel Laufer was born in Hannover, Germany, in 1975. He lives and works in Berlin. He studied Fine Art at the HBK Braunschweig (Germany) with the Professors Marina Abramovic, Walter Dahn and Birgit Hein. Laufer is a recipient of the Prize of the Arthur Boskamp Stiftung for Spaceconcepts (2011) among other awards. Past solo exhibitions venues include the Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof, Hamburg; KM Gallery, Berlin; Schaufenster, Kunstverein f. d. Rheinlande und Westfalen, Otisseldorf; Simultanhalle, Cologne; and and Dependance, Bruxelles. His many group exhibitions include: Jewish Museum Berlin, Fridericianum, Kasseler Kunstverein, Kassel; Kunstmuseum, Bonn; Artists Space, New York City; KW institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; Transmission Gallery, Glasgow; and was publisher of Invited by Daniel Laufer, Provinz Editions, Bochum and the Magazine DK with Keren Cytter. Laufer makes video installations in which he examines the aesthetics of filmmaking. With different techniques of illusion drawn from the history of film, he creates a theatre of perception, playing with language and script, scenery and paintings, time and performance. Laufer often uses "Matte painting" (filming through a partially painted glass) as extension to the filmed scenery. These paintings, used as means for special scenographic effects and set designs, are intertwined with the film to produce a condensed emotional expression, but become autonomous of their origin. The installations allow the viewer to enter the room of the production process and to complete the "Gesamtkunstwerk." The Dialogue being the origin of his artistic work, he often casts artist friends close to him during the production process of his works. This way his works become a kind of diary for his own life. He has been working with the Berlin-based Gallery KM since 2011 and is the honorary Chairman of the Rykestr Synagogue in Berlin.

daniellaufer.info  
danielmf@gmx.net



## Adi Liraz

Adi Liraz is a multi and interdisciplinary artist, curator and activist. In her work, she often bridges private and public experiences, discourses and spaces. She reflects on her personal and collective identity, particularly on her role in society as a migrant, woman and mother. Coming from her homeland in the cultural diverse region of the Middle East and living in the cosmopolitan city of Berlin, Liraz is aware of the multidimensional nature of identity. In the last few years, she developed a special relationship to performance arts; in interactive performances and public interventions, she connects with the audience. By overcoming barriers and the wall of fear, she generates a better understanding of social division. She constantly attempts to voice the unheard. One of her main methods of expression is using textile and threads. This becomes a form of language: she reveals her experience of exile as well as memories of her home(s) by weaving. In a never-ending process of taking apart and weaving again, she connects different stories into one new common (her) history. The aim of Liraz's work is to generate communication and critical exposure of hegemonic perceptions. Liraz received a BFA from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design (2001) and an MA with honors from the Art Academy Berlin Weißensee ("Art in Public Context, Spatial Strategies", 2014). In 2015 - 2016 Liraz was a coordinator at the Salaam Schalom Initiative, she is a founding member of NOMEN Collective, part of the duo ExDress and member of the Association of Performance Art, Berlin. Liraz has worked, exhibited, curated and performed, among others, at Hysteria collective (2015), COVEN in Berlin (2015), Musrara Mix Festival in Jerusalem (2015), District Berlin(2013), 48 Hours Neukölln Art Festival (2015,2016), Month of Performance Art Berlin (2013, 2015) and in Alphanova & Galerie Futura, Berlin (2016).

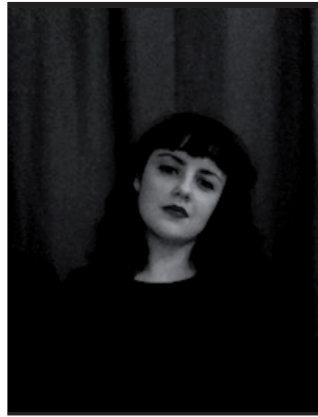
adiliraz.com

adi@liraz.eu



## Alina Nosow

Alina Nosow was born 1987 in Kiev, Ukraine. Between 2010-2016 she studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and Academy of Fine Arts Karlsruhe. In 2016, she graduated as a master student by Prof. Marcel van Eeden. In her work, she deals with painting and sewing dolls, which she photographs at various locations. Figuration meets Abstraction. Primarily, we see figures in hermetic spaces, unable to communicate. Her painting is autobiographical. The figures look at us partly questioningly, partly as challenging. The central themes are violence, destruction and decay. The paintings do not tell stories, they are characterized by the lack of sensible connections. Alina Nosow was a scholarship holder of the ELES between 2010 and 2016 and spent one month in Rheinsberg as the first Dagesh scholarship holder.



[alinanosow.de](http://alinanosow.de)

[alina.nosow@gmx.net](mailto:alina.nosow@gmx.net)

## Ben Osborn

Ben Osborn is a writer, composer and sound designer. He is a self-taught multi-instrumentalist musician and the musical director of Bristol's Fellswoop Theatre Company, collaborating with other theatre companies in the UK and internationally. His soundtracks and songs have won the Cameron Mackintosh Award for Musical Theatre, the Methuen Drama Emerging Artists Award (with commendation for music), the Ignite Critics' Choice Award, the Peter Brooke Empty Space Award and a Manchester Theatre Award. He is a co-founder of and teacher at the Open Music Lab in Berlin, a free school for refugee musicians. Both as writer and musician his practice combines elements of aleatory and improvisation with set, stable themes; the aim is to find a unique voice between order and chaos. His theatre work includes: Parallel Yerma (London Young Vic), Ghost Opera (UK Tour; Aix-en-Provence Festival, Fringe Madrid), Current Location (Trinity Centre, Bristol; Edinburgh Summerhall), Ablutions (Bristol Old Vic; UK Tour), St Joan of the Stockyards (Bristol Old Vic), Goldilock Stock and Three Smoking Bears (Wardrobe Theatre, Bristol), The Point of No Return (Folkteatern, Gothenburg), He Had Hairy Hands! (Edinburgh Pleasance; UK Tour), The Boy Who Kicked Pigs (Lowry, Manchester; UK Tour). His sound art includes: aphasia songs (UCL), aqua rebecca (Alchemy in Sound, National Library of Wales - to be performed March 2017), sag mir wo/ich liebte nicht (ACUD, Berlin). His lyricist and librettist work includes: audrey (National Portrait Gallery, London), if only (Bristol Proms), on false perspective (RCM Britten theatre), through the bleak midwinter (The Coveryard), tanka (Hermes Experiment), violence-silence-voice (ListenPony). His published work includes: Billy & The Shaman (Bridge House Anthology), 72 (Living in the Future), The Swimmer in the Dome (The Future of Sex), Everything Must Go! (Living in the Future), To A Dull Receptor (Journal of Medical Case Reports), How The Old General Wept (WarConRes), Ablutions (Oberon Books).



[soundcloud.com/ben-osborn/tracks](https://soundcloud.com/ben-osborn/tracks)

[ben.r.osborn@gmail.com](mailto:ben.r.osborn@gmail.com)

## Ella Ponizovsky

Ella Ponizovsky's artwork is exploring and re-defining identity, her own as well as others. Human nature requires cultural uniformity, stiffness and unequivocal. However, in reality many cultural identities are much more complex than that. Due to political global shifts and globalization processes, a unified identity is rare. Cultural identities are fluid, flexible and multifaceted. Ponizovsky was born in Moscow, grew up in Jerusalem and recently immigrated to Berlin. As far as she knows, none of her ancestors lived for more than a generation in one place. In these conditions the task of self-definition becomes complex. She speaks, reads and writes in many languages. Language and typography are defining elements of a culture. By using strict set of rules, they indicate the undisputed nature of it, both by content and visual form. Ponizovsky's work is a contradiction of this concept. She is using diverse typography styles in different languages to create a hybrid outcome: the co-existence of multiple identities in a unified body of work. Ponizovsky's working methods are diverse as her multicultural identity. She uses multiple mediums to communicate visually; calligraphy, painting, drawing, photography, installation, digital media and motion image. The passion and ability to define the visual identity of others, emerges out of her own hybridity. Out of deep sensitivity to the diversity of identity, drawing one's portrait becomes an approachable task.

[ellaponi.com](http://ellaponi.com)

[ella.poni@gmail.com](mailto:ella.poni@gmail.com)



## Benyamin Reich

Benyamin was born in the Charedi city of Bnai Brak to a Chassidic family of Rabbis. Already in his early life he started to widen his horizon to include more modern approaches to life and search for further ways to cultivate his artistic skills. Around the age of 15 he left his home community and traveled to Paris where he worked and studied art and photography at the École des Beaux-Arts. Later he returned to Israel where he took classes at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design and the Musrara School. He exhibited his works in different galleries in Israel, before deciding to move to Berlin in 2009. In Berlin he keeps in touch with galleries of photography in which he had shows and presentations. Benyamin also exhibited his works in the Jewish Museum of Berlin and museums in Western Germany. His pictures were bought by many private clients and are part of the JMB's collection. In the next two years he will participate in shows in the Jewish Museums of Frankfurt and Munich.

[benyaminreich.com](http://benyaminreich.com)

[benyaminreich@yahoo.com](mailto:benyaminreich@yahoo.com)



## Hadas Reshef

Hadas Reshef was born 1982 and lives between Poznań – Poland, Berlin – Germany, Arad and Tel-Aviv – Israel. She is currently working on her thesis in cultural anthropology at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. Prior to that, Reshef studied art and education at the Hamidrasha School of Art, Beit Berl College, Israel, and received the Israeli Ministry of Education's scholarship for outstanding achievement. Reshef has had solo exhibitions at the Artists' Studios, Tel Aviv (2011), and at her rented apartment, which she converted into a gallery in 2009. She has also participated in many group exhibitions at the Herzliya Museum, the Bat-Yam Museum, the Israeli Center for Digital Art, Holon, Sommer Contemporary Art Gallery, Hamidrasha Gallery and more. Reshef is also a curator and producer of exhibitions and art events, and wrote a weekly column about art exhibitions and events in Israel for Erev Rav Magazine – Art and Culture magazine in Hebrew, and other exhibitions' texts and articles.

In her latest work, Reshef has developed a new kind of technique, which starts with research on a specific character, event or idea, followed by implanting the images to construct a multilayered collage covered with new painting, created by computer. The sources may be images from the Internet, historical and contemporary documents, quotes from other artists, print screens, or pictures she had taken herself. Through this, Reshef investigates the process of construction of national memories, as part of her observations on complicated Israeli-Jewish social, political and cultural connections. The art practice enables her to open complex and sensitive issues to discussion.

[hadasreshef.com](http://hadasreshef.com)

[hadasreshef@gmail.com](mailto:hadasreshef@gmail.com)



## Anna Schapiro

Anna Schapiro, born 1988 in Moscow, works as a visual artist and is currently living in Berlin. She studied with Ulrike Grossarth at the fine art Academy Dresden, and the University of Porto, Portugal. Her works have been on show at the Kunsthaus Dresden, the Museum of Contemporary Art Worclaw, the Haus für Poesie at Kulturbrauerei Berlin, and other European representative institutions. Being highly interested in the relationship of artistic thinking and ongoing social transformation processes Anna Schapiro is teaching at the Fine Art Academy Kiel during the winter term 2016 / 17. Apart from this, she has worked for the Hamburgerbahnhof Berlin and there was specifically engaged with the "Black Mountain Exhibition" which was displayed in 2015. Anna Schapiro's visual works navigate between sculpture and painting. In contrast to the classical notion of an artwork with a determined form, her pieces are flexible and often adapt themselves like a second skin or surface to the respective side. The given space is not only the place where the work is staged, it becomes the work's vis-à-vis and medium. Using Martin Buber's words, places where works are shown, become a "DU" corresponding to the works, or the works responding to the place. These processes can be observed in the work Four Colors, or Three Colors. In that work, papers are glued with ink to the wall and integrate themselves into the walls. Showing material in its physical conditions is a returning pattern in Anna Schapiro's works. In the series Verwandte, for instance, gravity eventually forms the final shape of the papers which were dyed and dipped into wax.

[annaschapiro.com](http://annaschapiro.com)

[annaschapiro.com](http://annaschapiro.com)

[Anna.Schapiro@gmail.com](mailto:Anna.Schapiro@gmail.com)



## Or Shemesh

Or Shemesh, b. 1981, in Be'er-Sheva, Israel, is currently a post-graduate Meisterschüler student of composition at the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy University for Music and Theater in Leipzig under the guidance Prof. Claus-Steffen Mahnkopf. Shemesh holds an M.A. degree from the University of Arts in Graz in composition and a B.Mus from the University of Tel-Aviv. In his concert compositions Shemesh is constantly seeking new ways to expand the limits of musical grammar by introducing various raw, non-musical, readily found and familiar resonant materials within new musical contexts and to de-familiarize them and activate their potential musicality. Shemesh's strong interest in connections between socio-political aspects of culture and music motivated him to pursue a one year student exchange program at the interdisciplinary and electronic music department of the Hochschule für Musik "Hanns Eisler" in Berlin. It was then that he began to develop his ongoing interdisciplinary project - The Concertification of Public Space. This work explores manifestations of socio-political and religious themes in public space by applying Public Art practices to site-specific musical compositions. Or Shemesh's compositions have been performed in diverse venues including: the Sirga festival in Flix, Spain by the French Ensemble Soundinitiative, at the Felicia Blumenthal Hall in Tel-Aviv by the Austrian Phace ensemble, the Stainer Center in Holon, Israel in the frame of the project "Composing for immigrant musicians," the Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart and others. Shemesh is a scholarship holder and research fellow of the ELES network for the years 2016-2018 and in addition he won several Excellency scholarships, among them the David Herzog Scholarship of the city of Graz, The America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship, the Swiss Associates of the Tel-Aviv University Scholarship, and others.



[soundcloud.com/orsh](https://soundcloud.com/orsh)

[or1234@gmail.com](mailto:or1234@gmail.com)

## Amir Shpilman

Described as "Alluring...consistently invigorating," by Allan Kozinn at The New York Times, Amir Shpilman began his musical journey at the age of 12 as a percussionist and his composition studies with Prof. Efim Yofe in Tel Aviv, Israel at the age of 17. After ten years of musical training in Paris and then New York, Shpilman founded the Ensemble Moto Perpetuo, a New York based chamber orchestra specializing in contemporary music and collaborative creations. Shpilman has worked with a variety of performers, orchestras and ensembles including the Ensemble Intercontemporain (Paris), International Contemporary Ensemble (New York), MIVOS String Quartet, IKTUS Percussion Project, EMP, Ensemble Meitar (Tel Aviv), Nickel Ensemble (Switzerland), Interface (Frankfurt), El Perro Andaluz (Dresden) and more. Shpilman received his Masters from the Hfm Dresden with Mark Andre and Manos Tsangaris and his Bachelor's at the City University of New York with Jason Eckardt and Tania Leon. His piece Hedef for large ensemble premiered and won the jury prize at the Heidelberg Spring Festival in April 2013 under the baton of Matthias Pintscher. Ensemble Intercontemporain premiered his large work Iridescent Stasis at La Biennale di Venezia in October 2014 and he was selected to represent Germany at the recent European Capital of Culture, Wroclaw 2016 premiering Destruction for Symphonic orchestra and large choir. The open-air concert took place on the banks of the Odra river with attendance of 140.000 spectators. Shpilman possesses a particular interest in chaotic forms as they are expressed through artistic means. Fascinated by shapes that synthesize the inherent multiplicity of music, while reflecting back a unified vision or idea, he aspires to translate the relationship between structure and volatility to authenticity in performance through compositional process. For him, performers energy should be classified as a compositional category and is highly detailed in his creative process.



[amirshpilman.com](http://amirshpilman.com)

[amirshpilman@gmail.com](mailto:amirshpilman@gmail.com)



## Noa Snir

Noa Snir was born in Jerusalem in 1987 and currently resides in Berlin, where she works as an illustrator and an artist. She has a Bachelor's degree from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, and a Master's degree from Berlin's University of the Arts, both with honors. Her work has been exhibited in New York, Tel Aviv, Berlin, Athens and other European cities. Her primary interest as a visual artist is storytelling, which is a common thread throughout her work. Making art is her way of having a continuous conversation with the world. It allows her to claim space, speak her mind, and listen to how people respond to it. She is a lover of text, and literature often serves as a source of inspiration for her work. She has made a series of works inspired by S.Y. Agnon's fiction, and another one inspired by Arabian Nights. She likes to explore Jewish-Arab identity, and the many ties between the two cultures. Snir finds it is an important conversation to have when examining the region where she's from. Concerning art history, she likes to draw from naive art, religious art, folk art; art created by individuals who did not necessarily see themselves as artists. She works in a number of different mediums, ranging from painting to lino-cut and silkscreen. She likes to experiment. She uses the computer for her more commercial work, although she is a big fan of handmade and manual techniques. She is a color enthusiast, and a book hoarder. She moves in the world well-aware of her identity as a woman, a feminist, an Israeli, a Jew, and as of lately, an immigrant.

noasnir.com

kinoanoa@gmail.com



## Hadas Tapouchi

Hadas Tapouchi is an Israeli artist currently living in Berlin. She received her M.A from Faculty of Arts- Hamidrasha and she works with photography and video. Currently she is working on ongoing project called "Transforming", in which she maps and photographs locations of forced labor camps and crime scenes from WW2. One thousand camp locations were scattered all around Europe. Between 1939 and 1945, prisoners of war from all over Europe were imprisoned and forced to do hard labor, many were sentenced to death. There were camps behind barbed wire and other accommodations located in dungeons, cellars, pubs, shops, apartments and old factories all over cities. In my research along the years, I have been fascinated by the idea of society designed and formed by disciplines of culture that are created by architecture, psychology, education, and the way in which society assimilates it and obeys to it. Questions about how normalization is embodied in power and why society needs this power, have been leading me in my work. Power strives to be understood as something unreachable; through banality it assumes as a double character of overexposed and invisible/ hidden at the same time. Today my photographic archive contains more than 1,000 images from Germany, Poland, and Greece and is soon to include Austria.

hadastapouchi.com

hadastapouchi@gmail.com



# STAFF BIOS

## Rebecca Guber

Rebecca Guber has worked with artists for nearly two decades, and before directing Asylum Arts was the Founding Director of the Six Points Fellowship for Emerging Jewish Artists. Asylum Arts and the Six Points Fellowship, both under her direction, have been the most significant direct supporter of emerging multi-disciplinary international Jewish artists over the past ten years. Through fellowship, commissions for new work, international retreats, and professional development, Guber has built a community of artists exploring ideas and identity. Before launching the Six Points Fellowship, Rebecca worked at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and founded the Shpatzirin Festival. She lives in Brooklyn, where she besides seeing art, she obsessively rides her bike, keeps bees, and makes quilts.



[rebecca@asylum-arts.org](mailto:rebecca@asylum-arts.org)

[www.asylum-arts.org](http://www.asylum-arts.org)

## Stefanie Höpfner

Stefanie Hopfner was born in 1983. She studied Judaism and the History of Art at the Freie Universität Berlin and at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beer Sheva, Israel. At the moment, she is writing her PhD having received a scholarship from the Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk. Her thesis deals with the environments of the contemporary Israeli artist Dani Karavan, and the ways in which he creates in the context of remembrance in Israel and Germany. Some of her main topics are the representations of human feelings, emotions, thoughts etc. in the field of art. How is art able to represent the variety of individual perceptions, impressions – are there limits of representation?

Since summer 2016, Stefanie has been the project assistant of the newly founded program for Jewish artists DAGESH. KunstLAB ELES.

[dagesh@eles-studienwerk.de](mailto:dagesh@eles-studienwerk.de)

[www.dagesh.de](http://www.dagesh.de)



## Eva Lezzi

Eva Lezzi was born in New York, grew up in Zurich (Switzerland) and came to Berlin for her studies. She is a scholar of literature and culture, and wrote her thesis on memoirs of persecuted Jews and her habilitation on interreligious love affairs in 19th century German literature ("Liebe ist meine Religion!" Eros und Ehe zwischen Juden und Christen in der Literatur des 19. Jahrhunderts, 2013). She also published several children's books: a series on eight year old Beni and German-Jewish life in today's Berlin (with three dimensional collages by the artist Anna Adam), as well as a Jewish-Muslim young-adult fiction entitled "Die Jagd nach dem Kidduschbecher" (2016). She has worked with the Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk (ELES) since 2013, and is the co-editor of the forthcoming ELES-publication on today's forms of memory: "Neues Judentum – altes Erinnern? Zeiträume des Gedenkens" (2017). At ELES she founded the art's program in 2016 and since then has been the project manager of DAGESH. KunstLAB ELES. The goal of DAGESH is to make Jewish art in Germany more visible but to also reflect the complex implications of such a labeling.



[lezzi@eles-studienwerk.de](mailto:lezzi@eles-studienwerk.de)

[www.evalezzi.de](http://www.evalezzi.de)

[www.dagesh.de](http://www.dagesh.de)

## Jolie Maya-Altshuler

Jolie Maya-Altshuler is a Cuban Jew from Miami, Florida currently living in Brooklyn, NY. She began working for Asylum Arts immediately after graduating from the photography program at NYU's art school, where she also double-majored in history. When she is not taking photos or running retreats, she spends her time playing in a band, DJing punk music, and fighting for prison abolition.



info@asylum-arts.org

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