

Untitled, 2021, Mixed Media, Nitzan Mintz
"Seems to be that my biggest fears are happening now."

ART+ACTIVISM

DEDE BANDAID & NITZAN MINTZ

Curated by Matthew Garson

Roe Green Gallery
Jewish Federation of Cleveland

ART+ACTIVISM

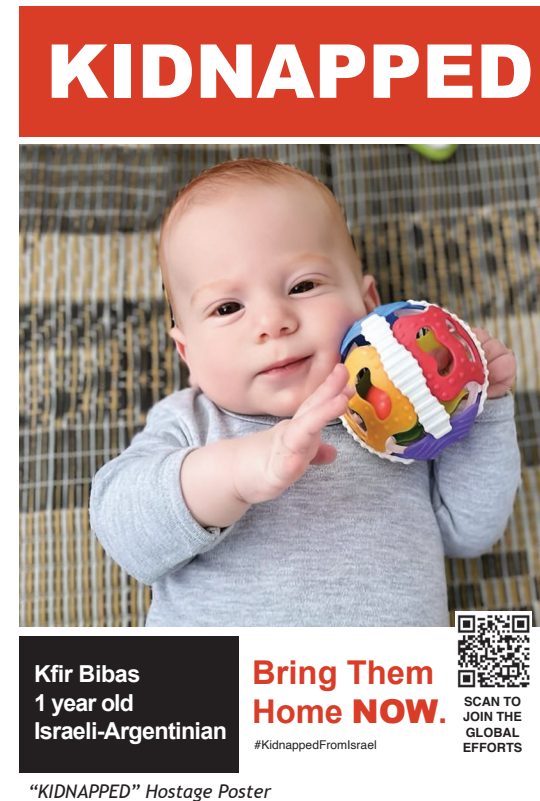


Closed Gate, 2023, Mixed Media Collage, Dede Banaid

Dede Banaid and Nitzan Mintz exhibition, “ART+ACTIVISM,” explores how artwork is used as a medium to promote social and political action and engagement. Dede and Nitzan’s goals are to confront social questions and address inequities and injustices, to spark dialogue and foster connections through the shared exploration of human experience within the urban landscape.

Dede is a multidisciplinary urban artist, who utilizes various mediums to communicate within the public arena. Nitzan is a visual poet who creates collages of words and materials. As partners in life and practice, they find inspiration in the vibrant pulse and constant flux of urban environments. Their artworks and site-specific projects are inspired by themes of post-trauma, childhood, and decay.

As street artists, they choose to work in neglected areas in hopes of conveying complex messages and evoking multi-dimensional interactions with otherwise overlooked places. Nitzan’s text provides a visual dimension to language, deepening perception of her poems while mining a deep well of primal and fundamental human associations while at the same time she probes specific and personal emotions. Dede provides poignant messages related to the specific history of a site or format of an artwork.



In the aftermath of the October 7, 2023 massacre, Dede & Nitzan abandoned their artist residency in New York City, in favor of creating an international activist campaign “Kidnapped from Israel” of posters and oversized milk cartoons imploring for the release of the hostages. Each poster includes a picture of a hostage, their age and nationality, and a call to action “Bring Them Home NOW.” Activists can download posters for free and are urged to put them up in as many public spaces as possible, www.kidnappedfromisrael.com.

This campaign went viral and became a social media frenzy with the constant posting of videos of individuals either putting up or tearing down the posters. It has become one of the most widespread activist public artworks in history and it continues to spread. The posters are currently translated into 35 languages.

“Kidnapped from Israel” is powered by the dedication of people worldwide. Thousands of activists from across six continents, spanning from Sydney, Australia to major European capitals, and including more than 30 states in the US, South America, Asia, and Africa, are united with one goal: to bring these individuals back home safely.

These posters, both public street art and activist campaign, serve as a call to the world to not forget those who are taken. There is hope that they are alive and that they will be coming home.

Cleveland native **Matthew Garson** is a fine art advisor, curator and interior design consultant with over 30 years of experience. In the 90’s, he was an assistant curator for Progressive Insurance’s Corporate Art Collection. In 2000, Matt established M%, a consulting firm specializing in collecting emerging contemporary artists and designing innovative spaces. He has owned galleries and produced art fairs in Cleveland, New York, and Miami, and has represented artists from all over the world. He is an original member of the Cleveland Israel Arts Connection and is currently Chair of the Visual Arts Committee and the Volunteer Director of the Roe Green Gallery.



DEDE BANDAID & NITZAN MINTZ have exhibited Internationally since 2011, both as solo artists and as collaborators. Their work has been included in many solo and group exhibitions in Israel, Europe, and the United States. They have been part of many solo and joint public work projects as well as a variety of special arts events. Awarded numerous residencies, Dede and Nitzan have been the subject of articles in countless publications. Their work can be found in many museums and in corporate and private collections.

DEDE BANDAID

2017 Mana Professional, A Career-Development Platform for Artists,
Mana Contemporary, New Jersey
2007-2010 BFA, Bezalel Academy of Art and Design Jerusalem, Israel
2009 Head, Academy of Arts, Geneva, Switzerland.
Specialization with press, print and screen print.

NITZAN MINTZ

2017 Mana Professional, A Career-Development Platform for Artists,
Mana Contemporary, New Jersey
2016 Poetry Studies, Helicon School of Creative Writing, Tel Aviv, Israel.
2014 BFA, Fine Art and Creative Writing, Minshar College, Tel Aviv, Israel.



Photo credit: Daniel Levin

AWARDS & GRANTS

2024 Artis grant for "Kidnapped From Israel," New York City, USA
2023 Artis exhibition grant for exhibition at Jewish museum lecce, Italy
2020 Art project scholarship and Grant for Artist Book, Rabinovich Foundation for the Arts, Tel Aviv, Israel
2018 Emerging Artist Award, Israel Ministry of Culture, Jerusalem, Israel.
2016 Printed artist book, Mifal HaPais Council for the Culture and Arts, Israel



In 2022, The Cleveland Israel Arts Connection brought Dede & Nitzan to Cleveland for Culture Fix CLE, an art installation throughout the city of Cleveland that was a part of the FRONT Triennial.



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To schedule group tours or individual visits,
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