

## SHAI ZURIM – ARTIST STATEMENT:

The main concern of my art is the perilous state of our emotional life, narcissism, egoism, boredom, neurosis and existential anxiety. These terms struggle to characterize a life lacking in purpose, passion, enthusiasm, a sense of community, ordinary human responsiveness, the ability to communicate - in short a life of spiritual vacuity.

I believe that art and artists should aim to provide the individual with some new, sensitive sense of ones place in the world in order that we may regain our power to act. Art should seek to communicate with the world at eye level - not just as outside critics, but also as equal participants. Applying this ideal to my own work, I hope that my art doesn't just refer to democracy; but that it acts as democracy - and an action and not just a description of an action.

My work responds to the changing nuances of every day life; therefore, I am obliged to constantly keep alert. I need to get out of the studio in an attempt to get closer to the moment and take part in the living events of everyday life. I need to feel, touch and to be the seismograph of the social, cultural, and political reality that surrounds me. This awareness dictates the working and conceptual methods of my art, which uses materials taken from our rubbish, our clichés and banalities, which I transform in the spirit of alchemy.

In order to ground high art in the banal, everyday things and reveal the present, I work with the mobility and quickness of drawing, I use common and throwaway materials, which I assemble into "thought up", "made on the spot" sculptures, or temporary and short-lived installations and murals. I employ a mixture of styles, voices and medias. I treat each project as a totally new experience, without pre- conceptions of how it should be done or appear.

I want to compose notions of time and space that cannot be told by a traditional narrative. Therefore, I bring together bits and fragments that can't and don't deliver a satisfying story in the end. Nevertheless, I want to create meaning. I find meaning in the search for harmony and continuity that exists behind these proliferate and broken fragments. I suggest bits and pieces of work that do not represent a united whole, but restore meaning as a composed unity of separate things. The many parts don't have an overall cohesive logic or narrative behind them; rather they mesh and suggest a meaning according to the poetic potential of a non-linear progression.

I believe that my preliminary experiences with various media are important and liberating steps in my artistic development, and I plan to take these overtures further. I want to learn how to use this profusion of ideas and to allow my use of multiple media to be a driving force in my work, in order to express myself freely, without being limited or fixed in a certain language. By doing so, I hope to fully realize the goals as stated in my statement: to create art that responds to the world and to daily life at eye level, to restore the possibilities of the individual within the global world.