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by *Harald Denckmann*

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Janine Gerber and her colleague, the Israeli artist Merav Shinn Ben-Alon, have many plans together. They are working on a joint exhibition, which will initially be displayed in Lübeck, and later on in Tel Aviv.

The Possehl Prize winner from Lübeck, the artist Janine Gerber, met her colleague from Israel during a symposium at the renowned Mark Rothko Art Center in Daugavpils, Latvia. There they

discovered the mutual potential for joint projects. Their points of view are somewhat similar, but the methods of the creation of their work are different; nevertheless, they are also able to contribute to one another. The project is currently developing into an international project, and continues to evolve even while the exhibition is on display.

The curator Carmit Blumensohn is also excited about the project. When the working process and the exhibition in the city of Hanse Lübeck end, the exhibition will be displayed at the Minshar Art School in Tel Aviv; it will conclude with large-scale drawings by Ben-Alon and paper installations by Janine Gerber. The exhibited work will be adapted to the space and cultural circumstances of the gallery's location.

At the moment, Gerber and Ben-Alon are taking a break from one another to allow for some de-stressing. The two women are working and creating. Janine Gerber is struggling with neutral awning material - by the way: what does it mean in English? - and in the meantime, Ben-Alon needs some time off from her German hostess to insert new ideas into the structures made by Gerber.

It is almost as if the project has turned the two women into a married couple. While in Lübeck, Merav even lives with Janine. This means that discussions about the joint work are never ending, as they amicably live together, but, at the same time, are also able to critique and motivate one another.

This process of taking new intercultural steps entails all these difficulties, but also tremendous satisfaction, which can be experienced at the opening of the German and Israeli artists' project "Together // Zusammen" on Sunday.

The curator Carmit Blumensohn will host an artist talk with the two artists, where the discussion shall center on the issues of society, the past, culture, gender, and the artistic controversy and its various aspects. Merav doesn't speak nor understand German, and therefore it will all be in English. For people who are eager to discover new paths, a visit to this exhibition could be a nice finale for the day, following the Hansekulturfestival.

If anyone is wondering what is the English translation of the word "Markisenstoff" is, here it is: it means "awning material".

Sunday, June 10, 2018, 10 am

Location: Kunstraum K 70, at 70 Engelsgrube St.

The exhibition will be open between June 10 to June 23.

Further information is available at www.janinegerber.de.

Photograph: Merav Shinn Ben-Alon and Janine Gerber, who will open their joint exhibition on Sunday.

Pictures: Harald Denckmann

