

In "Given," curator and artist Merav Shinn Ben-Alon collaborated with Galia Gur Zeev, who is also an artist and a curator. Together they have created a work space consisting of two identical spaces constructed especially for the project, setting out to explore the relationship between artist, curator, and audience.

In her work *Watchers*, Gur Zeev presents a strip of photographs which runs along the walls of the space, featuring figures staring straight ahead with piercing gazes, as a reflection of the viewers. It is as though the work directs its gaze at the artist and the curator as well, asking: Who is looking at whom? To the other space, situated in the back as a repressed consciousness, Shinn Ben-Alon invited another artist—herself. Her work, *One Hundred Words*, is akin to a "curator's footnote," mirroring the curator-artist conflict. In the groove crossing the walls of the space she concealed a text she had written, as a metaphor for the power of the "curatorial text." The viewers, accustomed to using the text as glasses with which to decode the exhibition, return to observe *Watchers* on their way out, this time in a slightly different manner perhaps.

This project reflects the blurring of boundaries and the dialogue between artmaking and curatorship in Shinn Ben-Alon's life. In one of the exhibitions she curated in the past Shinn Ben-Alon used the works of other artists as infrastructure for the construction of a personal story. The current project reflects, inter alia, the curatorial concept she has developed as curator (2003-2006) of the Art Gallery at Tmuna Theater, Tel Aviv. This concept ascribes major significance to the space as a point of departure and as a theme.

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