

Every Person is an Entire World: Art as a Vehicle for Change

Source Sheet

What can inspire us to remember the individuality of each hostage and each and every human? What can we create to help others remember and act on behalf of the hostages?

What can inspire us to remember the individuality of each hostage and each and every human? What can we create to help others remember and act on behalf of the hostages?

Below are four different creative texts to engage with: A poem (#1), a song (#2), a sculpture (#3) and an art installation (#4)

Explore the creative texts individually and answer the following questions for each of them:

- What do I think this text is about?
- What am I curious about in the text?
- What do I want to know more about?
- What does the text make me think about?
- How does the text make me feel?

1. EACH OF US HAS A NAME

Poem by Zelda

Zelda was a 20th century Israeli poet who wrote spiritual poems that speak to the human condition and our spiritual connection to each other and to a sense of godliness.

Each of us has a name given by God and given by our parents

Each of us has a name given by our stature and our smile and given by what we wear

Each of us has a name given by the mountains and given by our walls

Each of us has a name given by the stars and given by our neighbors

Each of us has a name given by our sins and given by our longing

Each of us has a name given by our enemies and given by our love

Each of us has a name given by our celebrations and given by our work

Each of us has a name given by the seasons and given by our blindness

Each of us has a name given by the sea and given by our death.

© Translation: 2004, Marcia Lee Falk; From: The Spectacular Difference; Publisher: Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, 2004

לְכֹל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם / זְלֵדָה

לְכֹל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם שְׁנֵתָן לוֹ אֲלֵהִים וְנִתְּנוּ לוֹ אֲבִיו וְאִמּוֹ
לְכֹל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם שְׁנֵתָנוּ לוֹ קוֹמָתוֹ וְאִפֶּן חִיוֹכוֹ וְנִתְּן לוֹ הָאָרֶץ
לְכֹל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם שְׁנֵתָנוּ לוֹ הַהָרִים וְנִתְּנוּ לוֹ כְּתָלָיו
לְכֹל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם שְׁנֵתָנוּ לוֹ הַמְּזֻלּוֹת וְנִתְּנוּ לוֹ שְׂכָנָיו
לְכֹל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם שְׁנֵתָנוּ לוֹ חֻטְאָיו וְנִתְּנָה לוֹ כְּמִיָּהָתוֹ
לְכֹל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם שְׁנֵתָנוּ לוֹ שׂוֹנְאָיו וְנִתְּנָה לוֹ אֲהַבָּתוֹ
לְכֹל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם שְׁנֵתָנוּ לוֹ חֲגָיו וְנִתְּנָה לוֹ מְלֵאכָתוֹ
לְכֹל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם שְׁנֵתָנוּ לוֹ תְּקוּפּוֹת הַשָּׁנָה וְנִתְּן לוֹ עֲרוֹנוֹ
לְכֹל אִישׁ יֵשׁ שֵׁם שְׁנֵתָנוּ לוֹ הַיָּם וְנִתְּן לוֹ מוֹתוֹ

- What does Zelda's poem say to YOU about the nature of each individual human?

2. HOW GOOD IT IS THAT YOU'VE RETURNED HOME

Song by Shalom Hanoch and Yaakov Rotblit

This song was written in 1971 when the musician Shalom Hanoch returned to Israel from a stay in London. Although written as a welcome home from mundane travel, it has become somewhat of an anthem for all returning soldiers since its release in 1972. Today in light of the war in Gaza beginning on October 7, 2023 it's meaning has particular poignancy as the world waits for all the hostages to be released and returned home.

אריק איינשטיין כמה טוב שבאת הביתה

[Arik Einstein performing the song](#)

זהו זה! | כמה טוב שבאת הביתה (שיר)

[The song performed on Zehu Zeh, Israeli TV.](#)

How Good is it that You've Returned Home

Words by Yaakov 'Yankele' Rotblit

Music by Shalom Hanoach

Translated by Marion Gribetz

It's so good that you've come home
So good to see you again
Tell what's up, tell
Tell how it was
And why didn't you send a postcard?

It's so good that you've come home
A little thin, but that's not important
Did you have fun (literally did you make a life), did you do things
You look like you have different colors.

It's really good that you're here
It's so good that you are finally here
It's so good, good

It's so good that you've come home
Home says everything
Were you hot, were you cold
Now you are happier
Now happier

So, It's so good that you've come home
It's as if you left, just left yesterday
Everything here has stayed the same
You are older (more mature)
Yes, older

Oh, how good is it.....

It's so good that you've come home
Really, I've thought about you
It's so good that you've come

כמה טוב שבאת הביתה

מילים: יעקב רוטבליט

לחן: שלום חנוך

כמה טוב שבאת הביתה
כמה טוב לראות אותך שוב
ספר מה נשמע, ספר
ספר איך היה
ולמה לא שלחת גלויה?

כמה טוב שבאת הביתה
קצת רזה, אך מה זה חשוב
עשית חיים, עשית דברים
ראית קצת צבעים אחרים.

אך כמה שטוב אתה כאן
כמה שטוב אתה כבר כאן
כמה שזה טוב, טוב.

כמה טוב שבאת הביתה
בית זה אומר כבר הכל
היה לך חם, היה
היה לך קר
אתה עכשיו יותר מאושר
כבר יותר מאושר.

אז כמה טוב שבאת הביתה
כאילו שיצאת, יצאת רק אתמול
הכל פה נשאר אותו הדבר
אתה עכשיו יותר מבוגר
כן, יותר מבוגר.

אך כמה שטוב...

כמה טוב שבאת הביתה
באמת, חשבת עלי
כמה טוב שבאת
שבאת הביתה
כמה טוב שבאת אלי
כן, שבאת אלי.

3. THE ABDUCTED HEARTS SCULPTURE \ NESS ZIONA, ISRAEL

As the war in Gaza continues many municipalities throughout Israel have been devoting public space to art works which keep the tragedy of the hostages in the forefront of the public eye. This installation is unique in that it includes silhouettes of each person who was abducted on October 7, with identifying characteristics of each person. Each silhouette includes an open heart shaped space for the heart of each person. This represents our open hearts waiting for their return. As of January 7, 2024 , some of the hearts have been filled in to represent those hostages who have returned home.



[Background information on the Abducted Hearts Exhibit Ness Ziona Israel](#)

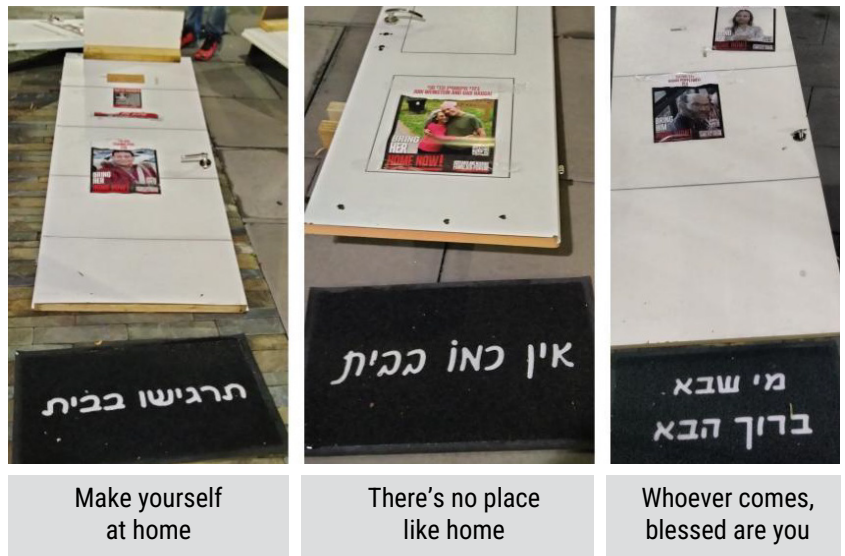
[The Abducted Hearts Exhibit, Ness Ziona, Israel: Images to use](#)

[Abducted Hearts Sculpture, Ness Ziona, Israel: Article and photos from the Times of Israel](#)

4: Public Art Installation: Welcome Mats

from Kikar HaHatufim: Plaza of the Hostages, Yavne, Israel, January 2024

In many of the public spaces devoted to keeping the hostages in the forefront of the public eye, homegrown installations (in contrast to professional artists' works) have sprung up as a way to make sure the public continues to advocate to the world powers that the hostages must be freed. This installation uses the 'found objects' (i.e. everyday objects) of doors and welcome mats to metaphorically help us all be ready to welcome each and everyone of the hostages as if they were appearing on our own doorsteps.



[Additional photos are here](#)

Welcome Mats, Yavneh, Israel

Photo: © Marion Gribetz 2024