

OPEN CALL FOR PALESTINIAN & JORDANIAN ARTISTS/DESIGNERS

DISARMING DESIGN FROM PALESTINE

تصاميم من فلسطين

CREATE-SHOP AMMAN @ DARAT AL FUNUN, SEPTEMBER 2017

WITH: GAZA REFUGEECAMP (JARASH), AMMAN DESIGN WEEK, SANDBERG INSTITUUT AMSTERDAM



DISARMING DESIGN FROM PALESTINE IS LOOKING FOR MOTIVATED ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS FROM PALESTINE AND JORDAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR NEXT WORKSHOP IN AMMAN.

On the invitation of Amman Design Week, Darat al Funun, Disarming Design from Palestine, Gaza refugee camp in Jarash and the design masters of the Sandberg Instituut Amsterdam have joined forces to collaboratively organize an educational program in the context of contemporary product design.

During a 2 week workshop a team of 10 contemporary designers from Jordan, Palestine and the Netherlands will collaborate with local craftswomen from Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan. Participants are invited to develop new useful products that somehow reflect the life in the camp, and can be made there by the local artisans and with the available resources. Afterwards the output will be exhibited (and sold) at "The Lab" during Amman Design Week from 6-14 October 2017. A selection of the workshops' outcome will be taken into production to be included in the collection of Disarming Design, which is a line of thought-provoking products that speak of Palestine's current reality. The products are then sold locally and internationally to spread alternative stories and reflect upon the function of creative practices in situations of conflict.

The program's objectives are to create a learning collaboration between Jordanian, Palestinian and international designers and Palestinian craftspeople, and to create opportunities for international exchange between designers in the Netherlands, Jordan and Palestine. Additionally we hope to provide economic empowerment to the crafts communities, particularly women, as well as a chance for cultural exchange and storytelling – with particular reference to the Palestinian diaspora or being stranded away from home. It will be an opportunity to connect with their identity.

Interested artists and designers from Palestine and Jordan are invited to apply before 25th July, with a motivation letter, CV and link to their portfolio. Results will be made public the beginning of August.

Dates:

- Arrival Saturday 2 or Sunday 3 September
- Workshop: Monday 4 – Thursday 14 September
- Departure: Saturday 16 or Sunday 17 September

Available places for the workshop:

- 3 Designers/Artists from Palestine
- 3 Designers/Artists from Jordan
- 3 Master Students + 1 alumni Sandberg Instituut (already selected)

The workshop will be guided by:

- Ghadeer Dajani (Production manager Disarming Design and designer)
 - Annelys de Vet (founder Disarming Design, designer, head Design Dept. Sandberg Instituut)
 - Rana Beiruti (Co-Director, Amman Design Week, and Director of 'The Lab', Darat al Funun)
 - Abeer Seikaly (Co-Director, Amman Design Week)
 - Haya Bustami (Education & Community Outreach, Amman Design Week)
 - Reem Marji (Architect, team Darat al Funun)
 - Guestspeakers (Jordanian designers/artists)
- Note: sessions will be in English*

The workshop offers to all participants:

- One meal per day
- Local transportation
- Workspace at Darat Al Funun
- Production budget for prototyping

The workshop offers to participants from Palestine:

- Travelcosts from Westbank/Jerusalem to Amman
- Accomodation in the guesthouse of Darat Al Funun (in shared rooms with 4 beds)
- Per Diem of 10 JOD per day / 10 days

Intellectual property

All products that will be designed have a shared intellectual ownership. The designers are allowed to produce and distribute the designs they have developed, and DDFP has the right to produce and sell the products. Artisans should be paid according to Fair Trade conditions, and Palestinian and Jordanian designers receive modest royalties for the sold products of their designs.



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PLANNING CREATE-SHOP AMMAN



BEFORE THE WORKSHOP

10th August

Final selection made of 10 participants. We will divide the group into 5 teams of 2 designers (2 Palestinian-Dutch, 2 Jordanian-Dutch, 1 Palestinian-Jordanian team). Each team is introduced to each other and designers are requested to get to know each other better and already brainstorm about possible working angles (digitally).

WORKSHOP PROGRAM (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Saturday/Sunday 2-3 September @ Darat Al Funun

Arrival international guests and check-in

Monday 4 September @ Darat Al Funun

– Introductions team & participants, briefing of project, speed date sessions

Tuesday 5 September @ Darat Al Funun + Amman

– Presentations history of Jordan, and situation of Palestinians in Jordan
– Site visit relevant locations in Amman

Wednesday 6 September @ Gaza Camp

– Tour through the camp and information about the local situation (who lives there, how are things organized, what is the legal situation of the people, how do people live).
– Collective lunch
– Presentations by the artisans

Thursday 7 September @ Gaza Camp

Designers are spread in 5 groups of 2 people, each group will sit together with 1 or 2 artisans and work with her/him, to see what they do, understand how they work and make together some first tests for possible products. The designers themselves also use this time to develop their idea's and understanding of the situation.

Friday 8 September @ Amman

Free day

Saturday 9 September @ Darat Al Funun

– Presentations by invited guests (designers / artists)
– Each group will have an individual talk with the invited guest to explain the idea's for products and receive feedback
– Worksession
+ Evening cultural program



Sunday 10 September @ Camp

Each group will again visit the artisans and ask them to make something specific (the design they have developed the day before). The designers will spend time with the artisans and develop their idea's further. Ideally they bring back a prototype by the end of the day.

Monday 11 September @ Darat Al Funun

Collective presentation of the prototypes that have been made and feedback sessions with the workshop team
– Worksessions for teams
+ Site visits design/art places in Amman

Tuesday 12 September @ Gaza Camp

– Making the final prototypes of the designed items in the camp,
– film/photograph and document the proces of making

Wednesday 13 September @ Darat al Funun

Finalize the designs, finish last details, write stories about them, photography of designers and write short biographies.
– Feedback available through individual talks with members of workshop team

Thursday 14 September @ Darat al Funun

Building up final presentation, each team presents his/her designs, and invited guests give feedback. Also the artisans are invited to join.
– Final feedback/reflection session with participants and workshop-team

Friday 15 September @ Darat al Funun

Free day (option for country hike) + individual talks with each team to discuss how the design will be worked out for the presentation at the Design Week

Saturday 16 September / Sunday 17 September

Free day / Departures

AFTER THE WORKSHOP

18 September – 2 October

– Production of selected prototypes in camps
– Post production of some items
– Editing film by Sandberg students

6 – 12 October

Amman Design Week (program to be announced)

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THEMES & MOTIVES

RE-THINK PALESTINIAN IDENTITY

In the current specific socio-political situation in Palestine, there is another layer to consider to guide us into a 'sensitive' local design and production. After what Palestinians have passed in the last century, there is a deep need for a re-research for a new Palestinian identity, as it has been and is being distorted and transformed after many shocking and drastic changes. Disarming Design provides a platform where designers and artists search into their visual reality of Palestine, into their daily needs and experiences. They elaborate them to create useful objects that will ease obstacles, or inspire for a better reality. Identity is not something fixed, but something that corresponds to contemporary realities, so to say a work in progress and that's where product design serves part of this re-discovery.

NARRATIONS

It is always a challenge when it comes to telling the Palestinian story. The historical conflict, the daily challenges, the complexity of the collective society that varies in the charm, kindness and active creation from one side, and the conservative perceptions from another side. Local and international audiences have become in a way desensitized of the overly repeated news reports of victims, documentaries on the struggles of checkpoints, and images of clashes, that deal with the people as only the recipients of information and facts, that media agencies race with each other on. Disarming Design from Palestine has been trying to take a totally different direction to engage people, on a personal level, with the Palestinian story, by creating an interaction between the produced product and them. In a way that gives them a perception of being the contributor and a part of the story, not only a receiver.

This collaboration with Amman Design Week introduces the opportunity for Palestinians that remain in diaspora to contribute to that narrative through their work in crafts.

INTERNATIONAL DISCOURSE

On the international context, the presence of the Disarming Design products in the international market is important to stimulate and trigger the international community and bring new perspectives alive. We have received several feedbacks on how a simple product can create great lasting impressions on people (see the example of 'Measuring Inequality'). But more pragmatically and as mentioned above, Disarming Design's important role is the one of supporting local economy through access to the international market.

CRAFTSMANSHIP

Over time craftsmanship has deteriorated and fallen into a repetitive loop of making the same products without relation to their original meaning. In each DDFP's 'create shop' we try to put back a piece of the craftsmanship functionality in its place, by questioning what is the story we want to tell. This is why it is important to put together the ability of the artisan with the freshness and the perspective of the designer; together they make reality themselves.

BRING ARTISANS TO THE FRONTIER

Most of the artisans and producers in Palestine are from marginal families, or individuals with low income. We help them by creating back the demand from the local market where these people are facing great challenges; some because of the political situation which prevents them from moving around for trade purposes, so they have limits on finding resources whether local or imported. They also face the international challenge that the local market is being diminished by the international mass production of goods made in China or elsewhere. One of our aims is to bring these artisans to the frontier, to acknowledge their importance and unique local and cultural technical talent which can't be found elsewhere. We realize that their business can't sustain itself without actually dealing with a production line of products.



Glass factory in Ramallah area. Producers of 'measuring inequality' and 'distance straws'



Tile factory in Nablus. Producer of 'Random tiles'



Pottery in Gaza (working with local clay). Producer of some prototypes 2015



Leather factory in old city of Jerusalem. Producer of 'Checkpoint bag' and 'checkpoint-brush-cover'



Open Studio, Khan Younis, Gaza. Producer of 'Awakening goggles' and 'Gaza Scarf'



Tailor 'Stars&Fashion' in Ramallah producing the 'Disengaged Observer Outfit' by Tommi Vasko (F) and Tessel Bruuhl (NL)