

**DISARMING DESIGN  
SUMMER SCHOOL  
'INTIMATE TERRAINS'****21-29 AUGUST 2019****تصاميم مجردة من فلسطين  
DISARMING DESIGN FROM PALESTINE****PALESTINIAN STUDENTS AND DESIGNERS: APPLY NOW!  
DEADLINE 4 JULY**

*Disarming Design from Palestine and the Palestinian Museum*, organise a summer school for Palestinian and international students and young designers. On the basis of the narratives of the exhibition, *Intimate Terrains*, at the Palestinian Museum, new useful products will be developed in collaboration with local artisans. What does it mean to be Palestinian today, and how to express that through locally made products?

The workshop is meant for students and emerging designers who are interested in developing their artistic practice from a social and political perspective. During this workshop, design is presented as an instrument for dialogue and emancipation with a focus on getting a better understanding of the political and humanitarian situation in Palestine through the perspective of crafts, design and art - and to apply this knowledge to the development of the individual practice.

15 Palestinian and 15 international students and designers will collaborate and learn from the different ways of dealing with

design through the conversations that will arise. They will investigate the production process of the artisans and the exhibition at the Palestinian Museum, *Intimate Terrains*, will offer the starting point for collective discussions and collaborative workshop sessions. In mixed groups of 4 to 5 participants, prototypes for thought provoking and useful products will be developed together with local producers. How can a product embody a story? How to co-create products with local artisans?

The workshop will include tours through different landscapes, crafts industries, and will end with a public presentation of the developed prototypes at the Museum. The aim is that a selection of the items will be taken in production and sold via *Disarming Design from Palestine* and the giftshop of the Palestinian Museum. All participants will contribute to a final report that will be made to capture the process and ways of learning during the summer school.

**APPLY NOW !**

## تصاميم مجردة من فلسطين

### DISARMING DESIGN FROM PALESTINE

#### PARTNERS & PARTICIPANTS

##### 5 Institutes

- Disarming Design from Palestine (PS/B)
- Palestinian Museum, Birzeit (PS)
- Willem de Kooning Academie, Rotterdam (NL)
- Sint Lucas School of Arts, Antwerp (BE)
- Lucerne School of art & design (CH)

##### 15 Palestinian participants

- 15 students and young designers from Palestine, selected upon application

##### 15 International participants

- 5 students (BA & MA), Willem de Kooning Academy, Rotterdam (NL)
- 5 students (MA), Sint Lucas School of arts, Antwerp (BE)
- 5 students (BA), Lucerne School of art and design, Lucerne, Switzerland

##### 5 to 10 Artisans

To be selected

##### 7 Tutors

- Annelys de Vet (NL/B, artistic director DDFP)
- Ghadeer Dajani (PS, design & production manager DDFP)
- Raed Hamouri (PS, executive director, DDFP)
- Curators Palestinian Museum
- Petra van Brabant (B, tutor Sint Lucas School of Arts)
- Catherine Somze (NL/B, tutor Willem de Kooning Academie)
- Ursula Bachman (CH, tutor Lucerne School of art and design)
- Francisca Khamis (CL/PS, design resident DDFP)

#### PALESTINIAN PARTICIPANTS

Participating students and designers have a curious mind, sensitive mentality, collaborative spirit and sense for materiality. They are open to collaborate with designers and artisans.

Participants will work in small teams composed on the basis of motivation and portfolio, and team members will meet on fore-hand (over skype & e-mail).

#### (NO) COSTS

Workshop costs are covered by the summerschool; transport and catering is covered by participants.

#### LANGUAGE

Workshop sessions will be in English

#### DURATION

9 Days; 21-29 August 2019

#### SELECTION

Application deadline:  
4<sup>th</sup> July

Acceptance notification:  
Week of 12<sup>th</sup> July

To apply, send the following documents to  
[contact@disarmingdesign.com](mailto:contact@disarmingdesign.com)

- Motivation letter (English)
- CV (A4 max.)
- Link to portfolio

Or fill in the on-line form:

**APPLY NOW !**

#### PROGRAM

- *Tuesday 20 August*  
International students arrive in Birzeit
- *Wednesday 21 August*  
Briefing project, Palestinian and international participants give short introductions of themselves. Collective lunch and tour through the exhibition the Palestinian Museum.
- *Thursday 22 August*  
Workshop visits of the different artisans we will work with and brainstorming sessions
- *Friday 23 August*  
Hike in the countryside
- *Saturday 24 August*  
Presentations external guests, brainstorming sessions and feedback on idea's.
- *Sunday 25 August*  
Worksessions where each team works with his/her artisans. Different tutors pass by the workshops.
- *Monday 26 August*  
Worksessions where each team works with his/her artisans. Different tutors pass by the workshops.
- *Tuesday 27 August*  
Workshopday at the Palestinian Museum on storytelling, design and production
- *Wednesday 28 August*  
Production of prototypes.
- *Thursday 29 August*  
Finishing prototypes and installing them in museum, public presentation in the afternoon.

## تصاميم مجردة من فلسطين DISARMING DESIGN FROM PALESTINE



### DISARMING DESIGN FROM PALESTINE *Thought provoking design label*

Founded in 2012, *Disarming Design from Palestine* is a thought-provoking design label presenting useful products from Palestine. By turning designs that are not only unique, but tell stories, *Disarming Design from Palestine* provides a glimpse into the daily life of Palestinians. Despite the many struggles Palestinians face daily, stories of perseverance and hope, dignity and strength, of the Palestinian spirit shines through in all of the designs and products shared by *Disarming Design from Palestine*.

In the historic city of Birzeit, *Disarming Design from Palestine* found their home since summer 2018. In a renovated building, where new stories are lived every day, and where remnants of the past beckons to the future with the promise of a better tomorrow. *Disarming Design from Palestine* is bringing communities together from Palestine and beyond, to create, resist, and share their stories through design.

Based just outside of Ramallah, *Disarming Design from Palestine* is registered in Palestine and Belgium and runned by Annelys De Vet (a Brussels based Dutch designer who also acts as Artistic Director), Raed Hamouri (Executive director) and Ghadeer Dajani (design & production manager). The *Disarming Design from Palestine* team is composed of a diverse group of multitalented designers, artisans and producers as well as a dedicated management team, that spans the globe.

[www.disarmingdesign.com](http://www.disarmingdesign.com)

### THE PALESTINIAN MUSEUM

The Palestinian Museum is an independent institution dedicated to supporting an open and dynamic Palestinian culture nationally and internationally. The Museum presents and engages with new perspectives on Palestinian history, society and culture. It also offers spaces for creative ventures, educational programmes and innovative research. The Museum is a flagship project of Taawon-Welfare Association and one of the most exciting new cultural projects in Palestine.

### INTIMATE TERRAINS: REPRESENTATIONS OF A DISAPPEARING LANDSCAPE, EXHIBITION

*Guest-curator Dr. Tina Sherwell*

The exhibition explores the changing representation of landscape by Palestinian artists, and our relationship to place and location through the themes of erasure, fragmentation, distance and belonging in a spectrum of artworks drawn from the 1930s to the present day.

The depiction of landscape over the decades provides us with a prism onto the experience of loss and longing, a prominent subject matter for artists, as its topography holds a central place in Palestinian identity formation. Landscape is at once both a vast site of projection and a deeply layered terrain of remains, memories and histories.

How do artists negotiate and articulate collective and personal memory in relation to representations of landscape? What keeps us in a place? What are the limits of nostalgia? How does exile and different experiences of alienation shape views of the landscape? With our diminishing access to the land, the segregation of communities and the fragmentation and isolation of the terrains, and as the violent confiscation and destruction of the land unfolds, how do our intimate relationships to places manifest around landscape? Yet undeterred by this, what have been and what are our dreams and visions of landscapes of the past and future?

[www.palmuseum.org/exhibitions/forthcoming-exhibitions-1](http://www.palmuseum.org/exhibitions/forthcoming-exhibitions-1)

## BRIEFING

Develop a prototype for a new useful product, inspired by the narratives of the exhibition *Intimate Terrains*. The product should be made by one of the artisans that will join the workshop; based on their techniques and available resources.

We prefer natural or recycled materials (as much as possible) and avoid edible materials. All items should be made with respect to the BDS principles and able to be taken into production (the cheaper and simpler products can be in relation to production, the better). Additionally they should be modest in size so it can be sold at the Museum Shop and easily taken by customers, including via air travel.

### PRODUCTION & COPYRIGHT

Based on the produced prototypes, the Museum and DDFP will make a selection of which products they will take into production. The prototypes that are not selected can be used and developed further by the designers on their own terms. DDFP will develop technical sheets and production contracts for the selected items. They will develop the prototype to a final product and coordinate the production process.

When a product is produced, it will be labeled with the credits of the designers and producers, the material, the story and mentioning both the Palestinian Museum, as *Disarming Design from Palestine*. The copyright of the products will be shared with the designer, the Palestinian Museum and DDFP.

### RE-THINKING 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 through in the last century, there is a deep need for a re-search 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 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 different direction to engage people, on a personal level, with individual stories, by creating an interaction between the produced product and them.

### INTERNATIONAL DISCOURSE

In 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. However, more pragmatically, *Disarming Design's* important role is supporting local economy and innovation through access to the international market.

### BRINGING 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.