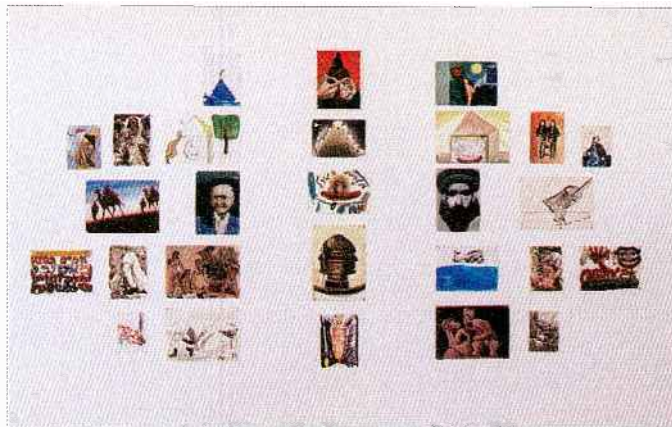


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Gathering the Past

A new exhibition at the Jerusalem Artist's House tries to make sense of its own ghosts

The museum is a haunted space, teeming with ghosts of the past and anxieties of the future. Curatorial choices create a narrative that is at once exclusionary and inclusive, and it is a daunting task to capture the zeitgeist of any period in time. This month, the Jerusalem's Artist's House will explore the museum as a vestige of history with Gatherer / Nonfunctional Display. Before the JAH existed in its current incarnation, there was the Bezalel National Museum, a multidisciplinary museum that displayed a wide-ranging collection of taxidermies, archeological artifacts, botany, arts and crafts, Judaica, and more. Bezalel reflected a need to



forge a national Jewish identity, and often fused 'Eretz-Israel' motifs with utopian imagery. It was closed in 1965. Gatherer / Nonfunctional Display will return to the National Museum by transforming itself into a metaphoric space, overflowing with relics of both high and low culture. The display represents an "open structure of seemingly nonfunctional knowledge," wherein the task of curating becomes a political one. The exhibition is meant to be self-reflexive, drawing attention to the act of collection itself. It

explores the role of objects in identity formation, and how the hoarding of 'things' can become a reflexive act. Participating artists include: David Adika, Boaz Arad, Maya Attoun, Gili Avissar, Carmel Bar, Ido Bar-El, Keren Benbenisty, David Chaki, Dana Darvish, Dorit Figovich Goddard, Yair Garbuz, Dor Guez, Rachel Kainy, Gabi Kricheli, Elad Larom, Ella Littwitz, and others.

Closes August 8. Jerusalem Artists' House, 12 Shmuel Hanagid St, Jerusalem (02-6253653/art.org.il)