

ISRAEL

70 Years of

Craft & Design

ON VIEW: April 21 - September 3, 2018

EXHIBITION RESOURCE GUIDE

ISRAEL - 70 Years of Craft and Design celebrates the art and innovation of the nation's diverse people through a rich range of objects of daily use. Over 100 objects—including Yemenite jewelry, Bedouin textiles, contemporary garments, industrial design, adornment incorporating ancient materials, furniture and ceramics—illustrate the special fusion of European and Arab influences embodied in Israel's modern craft and design. This exhibition is a collaboration between the House of Israel and Mingei International Museum and was guest curated by Smadar Samson.

EXHIBITION THEMES

Something from Nothing

This exhibition reflects Israel's talent for transforming commonplace things into new objects with different functions. This is seen in Raviv Lifshitz's transformation of old umbrellas into a light fixture as well as Rory Hooper's ready-made solution for holding hot drinks.

Natural Resources and Found Materials

Though the natural resources of Israel are few, artists and designers have been continually inspired by the earthy colors of the land, the deep blue of the sea, and vibrant colors of native-growing fruits. Craftspeople in Israel have been incredibly resourceful with found materials, turning something ordinary into something beautiful. Examples of this include Rojy Ben-Joseph's dress, which was inspired by old kitchen towels as well as Dania Chelminsky's ring made from natural eggshell.



Immigrant Influence

The fusion of immigrants from European and Arab countries with modern craft and design movements in Israel has sparked extraordinary creativity, wide-ranging examples of which will be presented in the show.

Art and Design

Unlike societies that preserve and pass on craft skills and traditions from one generation to the next, Israel has a craft and design history that is short and erratic. Yet, what Israel lacks in visual tradition, it makes up for in works of craft that have been brilliantly designed for aesthetic pleasure as well as functional use.

VOCABULARY

Arabic - Arabic is one of the official languages, and there are a number of other semi-official languages. Typically all official signs in Israel are in Hebrew, Arabic and English

Hamsa - an ancient Middle Eastern amulet symbolizing the Hand of God. In many faiths it is a protective sign. It brings its owner happiness, luck, health, and good fortune

Immigrant - someone who comes to live permanently in a country that is not their native country

Improvise - produce or make something from whatever is available

Innovate - make changes in something established, especially by introducing new methods, ideas, or products

Israel - Israel is a country in the Middle East, an area between Asia and Africa, on the Mediterranean Sea. It is in Asia but touches Africa

Hebrew - one of the two official languages of Israel, along with Arabic. Modern Hebrew is spoken by about nine million people, counting native, fluent, and non-fluent speakers

Natural Resources - materials or substances such as minerals, forests, water, and fertile land that occur in nature and can be used for economic gain

STUDENTS WILL EXPLORE...

- Israeli culture, art forms and aesthetics from 1948 to present
- Cultural and immigrant influence in Israeli craft and design
- The intersection of art and design and how one cannot exist without the other



Neta Sorek,
*Spring Heel
Shoes*, 2015.
Collection of the
Designer.



Dana Cohen,
Worn Again,
2015. Recycled
textiles. Collection
of the Designer.



Cecilia Vitas, *Excavating the Matter*,
Unearthing the Soul, 2017. Laser-cut Hebrew
Encyclopedia & metal. Collection of the
Designer.



Efrat Eyal, *Make your own
PCB*, 2011. Earthenware.
Collection of the Designer.

IN PREPARATION FOR YOUR VISIT

Schedule a Museum visit and Docent-led tour through the Education Department. Mingei offers free admission for all K-12th grade and college groups and transportation reimbursements for Title 1 schools.

Email: jowens@mingei.org

Call: 619-704-7507

Complete an online tour request form: www.mingei.org/education/museum-tour-request

- Review the information in this hand-out with your students; build their knowledge, excitement and confidence before they arrive.
- Discuss museum etiquette and review the Tour Guidelines document that will be sent to you when your tour is confirmed.
- Explain to students that a Museum Docent will guide them through the exhibition. Explain that a Docent is a knowledgeable Museum-trained volunteer who will share valuable information with them.
- Explain that Mingei International is a museum of folk art, craft and design that shows work from all over the world, and that “*mingei*” is a Japanese word that means “art of the people.”