ONLINE EDUCATION: TEACHING IN A TIME OF CHANGE

• Paper / Proposal Title:
The Missing Corridor

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• Abstract (300 words):
Craft, design, and art are taught in workshops, studios, gallery spaces and other informal spaces, such as: campuses’ courtyards and corridors. These spaces provide the special conditions for the exchange of the practical and experiential knowledge as well as for the social interactions needed for their pedagogy. This may be one of the reasons why academies of art and design find the requirement to move to online platforms particularly challenging.

This presentation will focus on the ways Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem, addresses the multiple effects of COVID-19 pandemic on its teaching activities. Since its establishment in 1906, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design has evolved into the epicenter of the Israeli cultural discourse. It’s unique strength stems from its dynamic nature and its ability to respond rapidly to cultural changes. The narrative will be presented through the perspective of Bezalel Arts and Design Teaching Center (BTC). It
will cover Bezalel’s strategic and tactical moves, how it compensated the loss of access to its studios, workshops, and corridors, and how it facilitated its teachers’ creative energies in order to develop original tools, innovative methods and new teaching formats that can work within the pandemic’s restrictions. The later will be presented by examples of newly developed online craft sessions such as glassblowing, fashion design and screen-based art classes.

The main features of BTC strategy included: Generating steady current of supportive information to both teachers and academic managers, through surveys, interviews, and regular meetings with overseas colleagues; Developing and implementing innovative digital platforms to sustain creative social interactions; Organizing international events to inspire pedagogical innovation; Organizing non-formal, synchronic and a-synchronic virtual venues for teachers to share their pedagogical experiments and learn from each other; And providing technical training for lecturers on virtual teaching and learning platforms.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

**Head of Bezalel Art and Design Teaching Center, Merav Salomon** is an illustrator, book artist and the founder of the independent publishing house Salomon & Daughters. Salomon is a Professor for Illustration at the Visual Communication Graduate and Undergraduate programs, where she has been the director of the Illustration Track from 2007 to 2018. Salomon is a member of the founding group of the BTC at Bezalel Academy, paving the way to its role and status today - formulating and conceptualizing the unique characteristics of teaching Art & Design. Salomon is the winner of several international illustration awards such as the 2015 Gold Medal from the NY Society of Illustrators, 2013 Gold medal of the AOI UK, and the 2014 Ministry of Culture winner. Her work has been exhibited in museums and gallery worldwide.

**Arch. Barak Pelman** is an architectural educator, learning designer and a researcher. He is a member of Bezalel Art and Design Teaching Center and serves as the Head of Advanced Studies at Bezalel Architecture Department. He studied architecture at Tel-Aviv University and at Helsinki University of Technology, and he holds a Master’s Degree in Sustainable Environmental Design from the Architectural Association School of Architecture London, where he also taught at the Environment and Energy studies Program, and at the M.Arch Design & Make. Currently, Barak is a PhD candidate at the Design Hybrid Lab which focuses on digital design, craft and fabrication, and human-computer interaction. In his PhD, barak focuses on the role of craft in design and architecture education.

**Yochai Avrahami** is an artist, a lecturer at Bezalel Fine Arts department and a member of Bezalel Art and Design Teaching Center. In 2013 he established the BFa program in Arts at Bezalel Ultra - Orthodoxs branch and has coordinated this program until 2020.
Between 2014-2017 Avrahami was the head of the Arts Faculty in Oranim College. His work includes sculptures, videos and installations. Currently his artistic research is focused on the display and presentation of images in military museums, memorials of atrocities and visitor centers. He has held solo exhibitions, including the Artists Studio’s Gallery, Tel Aviv; the Museum of Modern Art, Ansan, Korea; the Center for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv; the ACC Gallery, Weimar, and Herzliya Museum. He has also participated in group exhibitions including the 31st São Paulo Biennial; 6th Taipei Biennial; the Istanbul Biennial; and the Tel Aviv Museum. He won the Israeli Ministry of Culture Award and the Israeli National Lottery Award for the Arts. His book The Mount of Hercules was published in the academy of the arts of the world, Cologne.