



Summation of the seminar: "Plasticine, Lego and Animation, the Visible and the Hidden in Art Materials"

The seminar was organized by the Art Therapy Department, chaired by Dr. Ofira Honig.

The conference took place on April 1st 2016 at HaMidrasha Gallery - Hayarkon 19. About 150 people attended the conference: therapists, art therapy instructors, art teachers, graduates of the Faculty of Arts - HaMidrasha, art therapy training program graduates, students and art therapy program representatives - colleagues and partners to strengthening the profession. This was the second conference of the Art Therapy Department and of the Master of Arts in Visual Arts Program at the Faculty of Arts at Beit Berl College.

The keynote lecture at the conference was given by Ms. Aya Feldman, a senior lecturer in the Visual Arts Therapy master's program at the Faculty of Arts - HaMidrasha. The lecture touched upon the academic aspects of the use of materials during art therapy, while touching on the overlap between psychology, art and art therapy. Ms. Shlomit Rinat, also a senior lecturer in the Visual Arts Therapy master's program at HaMidrasha, presented a case study that illuminated the practical aspect of using plasticine - of the art materials that were the objects of the seminar, in the psychotherapeutic art therapy room. Mrs. Rinat presented a case called "Angry Birds": about plasticine as a material that serves an Ethiopian child and allows him to tell a family and community story.

Ms. Susie Bichler, a clinical psychologist and third-year instructor at the Visual Arts Therapy master's program at the HaMidrasha, described how working with Lego becomes a representation of a stage in the therapy and the potential inherent in its continuation.

The second part of the conference included practical experience in plasticine. Artist and art therapist Ms. Aisana Marowitz Yaakov referred to the experience and presented. Aisana, a graduate of HaMidrasha and of the Art Therapists Training Program, presented her artistic path and focused on large-scale sculptures (220 x 60 cm) in a classical style, which she created from plasticine in mixed technique. The subject of the works and the process of their creation dealt with the conflict in her urge to use a perishable material in the medium of classical sculpture dealing with commemoration and presence and the way of dealing with loss during the presentation of works in galleries.

Ms. Sharon Boaz, a graduate of Hamidraha's Photography program and currently a student in Visual Arts Therapy master's program, talked about the use of plasticine and animation using Stop Motion software on smartphones - with special education high school students. Ms. Boaz presented moving films created by patients who began by choosing a two-dimensional image - created a three-dimensional image or images with reference to it and then moved on to movement with these representations. In her lecture, Sharon also referred to the changing perspectives that developed within her as an art therapy student.

The seminar invoked many positive feedbacks from the participants, both about the lectures and about the practical experience. It seems to have emphasized the need among the community of art therapists for theoretical-academic and practical enrichment in the field.

We view the participation of the program's lecturers, past and current students as a welcome trend of continuity and the creation of a tradition of shared, in-depth and respectful learning.



Sincerely,

The Visual Arts Therapy staff