**12:7:1
12 Artists, 7 Days, 1 Roof**

Curator: Roy Maayan

Participating artists: Muhamad Abu Rqeye, Yoav Admoni, Efrat Eyal, Zahara Harel, Hassan Khatar, Jacob Meudt, Manal Morcos, Sadikou Oukpedjo, Sharon Pazner, Valentins Petjko, Gilad Ratman, Talia Tokatly

12 Artists, 7 Days, 1 Roof*:* innumerable conversations and encounters, immeasurable inspiration and creativity

Connections atop connections—of shapes, textures, and colors; among people; between people and material; between people and place.

The international ceramics symposium at the Umm el-Fahem Art Gallery was a unique event in the local and global landscape in many respects. This intensive creative and collegial encounter among artists from various places around the world, affiliated with a range of communities and faiths, and of various ages and genders yielded connections that could not have come about at any other place and time. During their seven-day stay in the sealed capsule of the symposium, slowly they pieced together a unique language that flowed from the encounter and the dialogue that it engendered. All these elements are manifest in every detail of the exhibition. A material—soil—that is usually a source of conflict and controversy, of disunity and disharmony among people, served at the symposium as much the opposite: an adhesive and a magnet.

In fact, the sealed capsule was not totally sealed. It remained permeable to its unique host, the city of Umm el-Fahem, which embraced it from all directions. The roof of the gallery, a place of action for the artists participating in the symposium, not only overlooks the city but also invites the city to join in. Thus, the dialogue ensued not only among the artists but also between them and the sights, the aromas, and, in the main, the people of Umm el-Fahem, who took the artists into their hearts. By opening their homes and their hearts to us with exceptional generosity, the townspeople also participated in the symposium—as sources of inspiration and as interlocutors.