

Untitled, 2021, Mixed Media, Nitzan Mintz  
"Seems to be that my biggest fears are happening now."

# ART+ACTIVISM

DEDE BANDAID & NITZAN MINTZ

*Curated by Matthew Garson*

Roe Green Gallery  
Jewish Federation of Cleveland



# ART+ACTIVISM

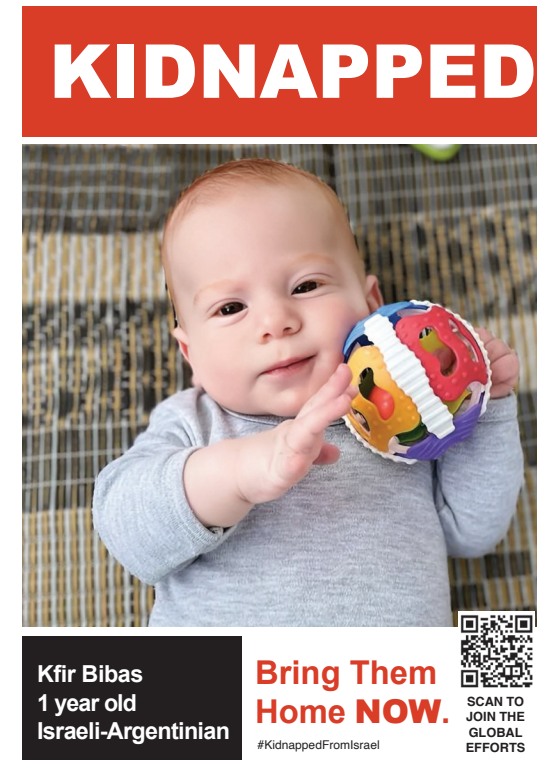


*Closed Gate, 2023, Mixed Media Collage, Dede Banaid*

Dede Banaid and Nitzan Mintz exhibition, “ART+ACTIVISM,” explores how artwork is used as a medium to promote social and political action and engagement. Dede and Nitzan’s goals are to confront social questions and address inequities and injustices, to spark dialogue and foster connections through the shared exploration of human experience within the urban landscape.

Dede is a multidisciplinary urban artist, who utilizes various mediums to communicate within the public arena. Nitzan is a visual poet who creates collages of words and materials. As partners in life and practice, they find inspiration in the vibrant pulse and constant flux of urban environments. Their artworks and site-specific projects are inspired by themes of post-trauma, childhood, and decay.

As street artists, they choose to work in neglected areas in hopes of conveying complex messages and evoking multi-dimensional interactions with otherwise overlooked places. Nitzan’s text provides a visual dimension to language, deepening perception of her poems while mining a deep well of primal and fundamental human associations while at the same time she probes specific and personal emotions. Dede provides poignant messages related to the specific history of a site or format of an artwork.



*“KIDNAPPED” Hostage Poster*

In the aftermath of the October 7, 2023 massacre, Dede & Nitzan abandoned their artist residency in New York City, in favor of creating an international activist campaign “Kidnapped from Israel” of posters and oversized milk cartoons imploring for the release of the hostages. Each poster includes a picture of a hostage, their age and nationality, and a call to action “Bring Them Home NOW.” Activists can download posters for free and are urged to put them up in as many public spaces as possible, [www.kidnappedfromisrael.com](http://www.kidnappedfromisrael.com).

This campaign went viral and became a social media frenzy with the constant posting of videos of individuals either putting up or tearing down the posters. It has become one of the most widespread activist public artworks in history and it continues to spread. The posters are currently translated into 35 languages.

“Kidnapped from Israel” is powered by the dedication of people worldwide. Thousands of activists from across six continents, spanning from Sydney, Australia to major European capitals, and including more than 30 states in the US, South America, Asia, and Africa, are united with one goal: to bring these individuals back home safely.

These posters, both public street art and activist campaign, serve as a call to the world to not forget those who are taken. There is hope that they are alive and that they will be coming home.

Cleveland native **Matthew Garson** is a fine art advisor, curator and interior design consultant with over 30 years of experience. In the 90’s, he was an assistant curator for Progressive Insurance’s Corporate Art Collection. In 2000, Matt established M%, a consulting firm specializing in collecting emerging contemporary artists and designing innovative spaces. He has owned galleries and produced art fairs in Cleveland, New York, and Miami, and has represented artists from all over the world. He is an original member of the Cleveland Israel Arts Connection and is currently Chair of the Visual Arts Committee and the Volunteer Director of the Roe Green Gallery.



**DEDE BANDAID & NITZAN MINTZ** have exhibited Internationally since 2011, both as solo artists and as collaborators. Their work has been included in many solo and group exhibitions in Israel, Europe, and the United States. They have been part of many solo and joint public work projects as well as a variety of special arts events. Awarded numerous residencies, Dede and Nitzan have been the subject of articles in countless publications. Their work can be found in many museums and in corporate and private collections.

## DEDE BANDAID

- 2017 Mana Professional, A Career-Development Platform for Artists, Mana Contemporary, New Jersey
- 2007-2010 BFA, Bezalel Academy of Art and Design Jerusalem, Israel
- 2009 Head, Academy of Arts, Geneva, Switzerland.  
Specialization with press, print and screen print.

## NITZAN MINTZ

- 2017 Mana Professional, A Career-Development Platform for Artists, Mana Contemporary, New Jersey
- 2016 Poetry Studies, Helicon School of Creative Writing, Tel Aviv, Israel.
- 2014 BFA, Fine Art and Creative Writing, Minshar College, Tel Aviv, Israel.



Photo credit: Daniel Levin

## AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2024 Artis grant for “Kidnapped From Israel,” New York City, USA
- 2023 Artis exhibition grant for exhibition at Jewish museum lecce, Italy
- 2020 Art project scholarship and Grant for Artist Book, Rabinovich Foundation for the Arts, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 2018 Emerging Artist Award, Israel Ministry of Culture, Jerusalem, Israel.
- 2016 Printed artist book, Mifal HaPais Council for the Culture and Arts, Israel



In 2022, The Cleveland Israel Arts Connection brought Dede & Nitzan to Cleveland for Culture Fix CLE, an art installation throughout the city of Cleveland that was a part of the FRONT Triennial.



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### Roe Green Foundation

The Leonard Krieger Fund of the



To schedule group tours or individual visits, email [israelarts@jewishcleveland.org](mailto:israelarts@jewishcleveland.org) or call **216-593-2890**.

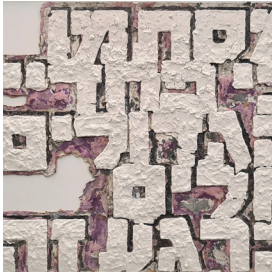
For information or to purchase works, contact Debbie Yasinow, [dyasinow@jewishcleveland.org](mailto:dyasinow@jewishcleveland.org) or **216-593-2890**.



[Jewishcleveland.org/arts](http://Jewishcleveland.org/arts)

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Curated by Matthew Garson



**Untitled** 2021  
Nitzan Mintz  
30" X 36"  
NFS



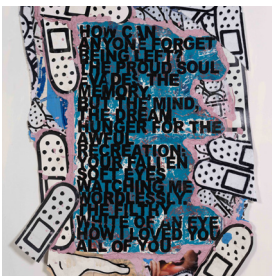
**Pink Duality** 2023  
Dede Banaid  
28" x 29"  
\$5,500



**Barb Wire** 2023  
Dede Banaid  
86" x 43"  
\$11,000



**All Over** 2023  
Dede Banaid  
86" x 37"  
\$11,000



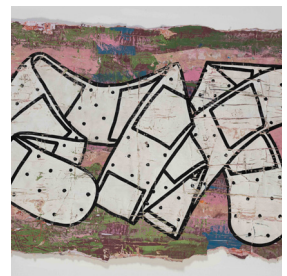
**Being Left with Band-aids** 2023  
Dede Banaid & Nitzan Mintz  
52" x 38"  
\$9,000



**Departure** 2023  
Dede Banaid & Nitzan Mintz  
34" x 44"  
\$7,000



**Lonely Bandaid #1** 2023  
Dede Banaid  
59" x 39"  
\$9,000



**Lonely Bandaid #2** 2023  
Dede Banaid  
40" x 63"  
\$9,000



**Healing** 2023  
Nitzan Mintz  
50" x 28"  
\$6,800



**Closed Gate** 2023  
Dede Banaid  
79" x 60"  
\$12,000



**Red Eye** 2023  
Dede Banaid  
66" x 45"  
\$6,500



**Wounds** 2023  
Nitzan Mintz  
59" x 42"  
\$8,000



For information, contact Debbie Yasinow [dysinow@jewishcleveland.org](mailto:dysinow@jewishcleveland.org) or 216-593-2890.  
Roe Green Gallery, Jewish Federation of Cleveland, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Building,  
27501 Science Park Drive, Beachwood, OH 44122

Posters and Milk Cartons can be found here: [www.kidnappedfromisrael.com](http://www.kidnappedfromisrael.com)  
Framing by Art Source, Inc, 23600 Mercantile Rd. #A, Beachwood, OH 44122 216-464-0898



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# ART + ACTIVISM

## Dede Bandaïd & Nitzan Mintz

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How does one commemorate the horrific anniversary of October 7th and not shy away from the brutality, hate, and stigma of what happened and what we experience every day?

**ART+ ACTIVISM** combines both the artists' work and their commitment to promote awareness of a worldwide cause. It is through the eyes of an artist that the public sees beauty or destruction, and receives a call to stand up against injustice.

Dede Bandaïd and Nitzan Mintz's work is often inspired by the aftermath of trauma. They represent moments in which private experiences are manifest in public. Their message is powerful, but always peaceful. I first met Dede and Nitzan in 2022 when the Cleveland Israel Arts Connection brought them to Cleveland for a city-wide project called "Culture FIX CLE," part of the FRONT Triennial. I was the site coordinator for the project and also secured a spot for a permanent mural.

In September of 2023, Dede and Nitzan arrived in New York for a 3-month artists' residency. Within weeks of their arrival, on October 7, Hamas attacked Israel, killing more than 1,400 people and kidnapping 251 others. Dede and Nitzan felt helpless, alone, and stranded in a foreign city. They were told by their families not to come home because it wasn't safe. They knew then that life had something different planned for them. Not able to sit by and do nothing, they abandoned their residency and within days came up with a poster idea based on the missing children ads that once appeared on milk cartons.

Through social media, the "KIDNAPPED" campaign went viral, becoming a global phenomenon and translated into 35 languages. The posters quickly became embroiled in the center of the Israel Gaza conflict. They were not created for political motives, but simply an effort to ensure that the 251 hostages were not forgotten. Dede and Nitzan sacrificed their art to a call they believed was greater than themselves, and in doing so rose to the challenge. Using their voice for change and crossing the line of where art and social commentary meet is an ultimate goal of an artist.

~ Matthew Garson



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