

# I close my eyes, Shimon, and write

## Editorial

"There are two things for which you sometimes need to close your eyes – one is making love, the other is making peace" - president Shimon Peres, a month ago in an interview for Al Jazeera. And you needn't be too smart to say that Peres is smart. Sayings like "one picture is worth more than a thousand words", or "don't believe anything until you see it" have not been invented for nothing, but to teach us that rumors are just rumors and until we see something with our very own eyes, we have no proof that it actually exists. Though I've done both with open eyes, there is no doubt that in order to neutralize the sense of sight that determines our attitude towards the other, we should sometimes close our eyes and let other senses also have their say, well beyond the limitation of the eye.

I know that some of you are dying to ask why then did Descartes say "I think therefore I exist" and not "I see therefore I exist"? The answer is that the sentence published in 1637 and then in 1641 in his book *Meditations on First Philosophy*, stressed the importance of doubt, which is in fact the essence of academia, making peace, as well as everything else we are a million percent certain is just and rational. So instead of going for what I like, I always try and look for the good in what I don't like. Not because I'm an innocent soul, but thanks of to my father who, before I enlisted, told me before I enlisted, that everything bad has some good in it, and vice versa.

I for one dislike exhibitions, mainly for fear they are always tainted by some commercial intention, by ego or Lego (just a moment) or both. But I always go because I'm supposed to be a "man of culture", hoping that maybe someone will surprise me and I'll change my mind. And honestly – how much ego there is in every biennale, triennale or expo, starting with the curator who comes up with some "thought provoking" expressions, and ending with the artists for whom the exhibition is an existential necessity. But is this a reason not to go to exhibitions?



Thing we have in our head - Lego work by artist Nathan Sawaya

This sweltering summer vacation is filled to the brim with activities – a lot of headaches, summer camps and too many exhibitions. The worst of them fail to deliver what they promise, the better - even if they have greater potential, are no less disappointing. One of these was artist Nathan Sawaya's Lego exhibition that shamelessly charged NIS 99 per person or NIS 280 per family (not including spa), just to lead you through a well camouflaged route directly to a fortune making Lego toy store at the end.

While inside, I was immediately reminded of Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing*, soon finding my way out into an unbearable turmoil reminiscent of Tahrir Square, causing me to hum the super political song (in retrospect) by Miriam Yellin Shteklis, written in 1940, long before we could afford to joke. And it goes like this: In the land of the dwarfs turmoil and noise and turmoil, the army in uniform goes to war, in front - the leader Tom Thumb, with a cast iron helmet on his head and a sharp pin in his hand... great...

And no, I haven't forgotten, there's also a "poenta", which I left to the end. In this issue we decided to include an article that may provoke in some of you an understandable revulsion and resistance. And I don't refer to the Iraqi architect who managed to leave her mark on the world of architecture, but the history of Third Reich architecture, that notwithstanding its extreme evil, greatly influenced architecture during the thirties. Beyond the fact that this article has quite a few surprises, you should take a deep breath, close your eyes, and read. Even if we never forgive, do not forget that we made peace with Germany a long time ago.

Keep enjoying your vacation,  
**Ami Ran**