

Art of Play in Zones of Conflict - The Case of Israel Palestine/ Abstract

The political conflict in Israel Palestine has been raging since the early years of the twentieth century and is showing no signs of reaching any form of peaceful resolution within a foreseeable future. *Art of Play in Zones of Conflict* enquires how this complex political conflict is explored in playful artworks. Playful artworks are defined as instances that reference play scenarios and objects such as walks, games and models. Additionally, playful artworks are viewed as ones which do not depict play that has happened elsewhere but rather where the audience and the artwork interact with each other at the same time and within the same space.

Through a practice led research and critical analysis *Art of Play in Zones of Conflict* aims to contribute to the debate around art and conflict over disputed territories. To further this enquiry, the project examines artworks' use of play, and its qualities, such as the ability to be quirky, redundant and above all flexible (Sutton Smith, 2001:226) demonstrating that playfulness is strategically aimed at enticing audiences to engage socially, critically, subversively and physically with that which is contested. Thus, this research will demonstrate that it is precisely through the playful that the artworks discussed in the thesis offer an 'experienced insight' (Kaprow 1992: 26) into the complexity of the Israel Palestine conflict.

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