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# Shahar Dor

Shahar is a multidisciplinary performance artist, director, and teacher and entrepreneur. For the past three decades he is creating, performing, teaching, and collaborating with numerous artists around the world .

Over the years he developed his artistic language whose starting point is the body and material as an arena of action, interweaving the performing arts with the plastic arts, video, and sound arts. His projects are described as a capsule of brutalism and calligraphy, were the raw, massive, and exposed aesthetic, encounters the elusive vivid life powers, exploring the connections between art and ceremony.

Shahar is considered as one of the pillars of artistic endeavor in the field of site-specific, improvisation and performance art in Israel and Europe, and as a cultural pioneer in the field. Over the years, a group of students, teachers and creators has gathered around his work, sustaining, and developing the work around the world.

As a pedagogue, artistic director, and curator, he is known for his autodidactic, intuitive, and visionary approach, and making the arts, education and social, experiential, and excisable. Through 3 decades of teaching, he developed his practice and philosophy, of movement, improvisation, and multidisciplinary live art, leading numerous workshops, educational and creative projects in the formal and unformal arenas, and with varied communities, as well as forming programs and schools around the world.

## Artist statement

I believe in the power of imagination. I'm motivated by exploring what makes things appear, the place where they come from, the form they take and the traces they leave.

I live and work in the range of roots and masks, between the ocean bed and the surface of the waves. Exploring the radicality and nuances existing between brutalism and calligraphy, in the meeting of body and mater.

I depend-on and follow a power yet to be traced, acting on the route between the human experience of focus and staring. Listening in action is my vehicle for touching the necessary and unseen, as they are being written in mater, space, and others, leaving a trace of presence, and a glimpse of life.

The act of presence, transformation and imagery are at basis of my work; the motivation is the need to observe and communicate something hidden, essential, and basic about being and existence. I decline a need to articulate the hidden, rather focuses on designing an arena of exposure, intimacy, and vulnerability.

Those, body, and mater are essential keys in my work, as they hold an endless poetics of human-nature.



## SUIT.CASE

SUIT.CASE is a roar of the body reborn from the cultural suits forced upon it. A vulnerable presence underneath a slow flood of 100 liters of paint in search of a core body experience, a sense of primeval existence. SUIT.CASE is a performance art act - a somatic, sonic, and visionary ritual.



SUIT.CASE is a groundbreaking project and a milestone in the of Shahar's unique artistic language and has been the ground for the establishment of *Shahar Dor International Ensemble*. The project started in 2012 as a solo and in 2013, it expanded into a group work. The project was immediately recognized and defined by artistic directors and critics as a groundbreaking performance. Over the years, it has been exhibited in Israel and across Europe at leading festivals, outdoor events, alternative art spaces, galleries, museums, and theaters.



SUIT.CASE takes us into the exposed realms of art, and touches on contemporary discourse about the changing identity of performance art. The intimate proximity to the stage, exposed state of the performers, continuation, the use of modern means and technologies such as sound art, video, and photography alongside the use of basic and expendable materials such as paint, create an exposed, magnetizing and moving encounter between performers and audience.





SUIT.CASE is a total physical theater. The viewers constantly perceive images almost empty from dramatic contexts until they surrender to the full being of what is now on stage - body, paint, sound, and image. Free of psychological gestures, Shahar Dor's SUIT.CASE makes its way under the skin and evokes a new memory and thought about a person's private yet epic existence.



SUIT.CASE is a ceremony of the modern man facing the symbols and cultural roles embedded in the suit. The performer darkens his senses with white paint blinds his eyes and loses his hearing. This ritual dissolves the body in search of new skin, new body. A pledge to awaken the body beneath the skin.

*"The re-painted man in the dark suit perhaps symbolizes a kind of creation ceremony, here and now, a daring virtual ceremony, a burst of impudence that challenges common institutional art."* Doron Pollak, curator.

Links: [Le Neomudejar Museum](#), Madrid | [Zuzu Gallery](#), Emek Hefer, Israel

## ADAMA

ADAMA is a ritual of complete self-burial in the ground that touches on the roots of the connection between man and ADAMA. An archetypal, mental and physical expression and existence of the ADAMA. A multidisciplinary art ritual that combines performance, sound art, video art and plastic art.

ADAMA gives a glimpse into the possibility of the existence of identity, roots, home and physical and spiritual freedom of body, mind, and place. ADAMA responds to a primordial longing for the healing substance for archaic and contemporary wounds and fractures between man and ADAMA, between man and himself, the other, the environment, his roots, and his God.



The project is site-specific in the most basic and raw sense - it depends on the ADAMA of the place, recognizing that soil is not just a geological raw material, but it stores an 'evolution library' of human and cultural materials and encodes what is beyond the perception of past and future.





ADAMA is a development of the artistic style, started at SUIT.CASE project and matured into language, tools, and style, now expressed in the ADAMA. ADAMA touches on ancient myths and existential questions that have been operating and activating human beings since the beginning of time and exist more and more in our contemporary nowadays. ADAMA presents the complexity of life as human beings with ourselves, with those around us and with our environment.



Inspired by tribal cultures, ADAMA presents the healing power through simple action. The ongoing action of digging in the ground, entering the pit, covering the entire body with soil, the prolonged stay inside the ADAMA, and the birth from it, powerfully present the encounter between silence and relaxation and attempting to control the accident of life. It is an invitation to observe quietly our processes and perceptions as human beings, of life, death, and change.



The raw action is charged with multiple meanings, and exposes fears, wounds, stigmas, and taboos, while at the same time allowing an intimate observation of the process that ends in a new birth of body and hope.

The project started in 2017 in Menorca, Spain, where it was presented as part of an international performance arts festival. In 2018, it was expanded and presented by with *Shahar Dor International Ensemble* as a major outdoor event at The *Akko International Fringe Theater Festival* and received a commendation certificate for Artistic Innovation from the Award Committee.

From the committee's statement: "*A commendation for ADAMA, for a work that provides an experience that touches the senses and raises strong questions about the essence of life and the connection between man and ADAMA.*"

ADAMA has become Shahar's flagship project, and it exhibits in galleries, festivals and art centers in Israel and Europe. ADAMA received the support of the Foundation for Independent Creators of the Ministry of Culture and the support of the Arts grants of the Lottery Institute for holding an event in public space.



Links: [Akko Festival](#) outdoors performance | [Zuzu Gallery](#), Emek Hefer

## FIELD AND FILTER

'Field and Filter' is shahars' recent project, together with his longtime collaborator, sound artist, Dr' Elad Shniderman. 'Field and Filter' is a commissioned work, that will premiere on January 23, at the Pyramid - contemporary art center, Haifa, Israel.





'Field and Filter' is a massive sonic installation, by artists Shahar Dor and Elad Shniderman, in collaboration with the Technion's Artificial Intelligence Hub, and together with a group of 30 students from the electro-music department at Leo Beck high school, Haifa, Israel, acting as main sound contributors and field recorders.



'Field and Filter' is constructed from 100SQM individually designed metal sheets, 300M sound wires, 60 specially designed metal sound boxes, and 100 transducers, creating a vibrating Sonic-Organ; sounding a mixed ambience of the physical vibration of the actual material and the prerecorded ambience and stories contributed by the students.

Designed as an environment within an environment, 'Field and Filter' creates an arena for imagination, inspiration, and action, inviting the public to go on an active exploration, as well as guest artists to act and react to the installation, student activities and more.

