

WALID MAWE'D

Walid Maw'ed, a young artist and fashion designer from Nazareth, was nominated for a residency at the Cittadellarte in Biella, Italy, by the A.M. Qattan Foundation, in accordance with the partnership agreement between the Foundation and the Fondazione Pistoletto. During his time at the Cittadellarte, he completed three projects: *Sewing the Mediterranean*, *Waiting for Water* and *The Little Black Dress ... Can Fly*.

Sewing the Mediterranean



The project consisted in two phases.

The first was the observation and collection of traditional costumes, fabrics, colours and accessories used and worn in the various countries around the Mediterranean. Special attention was paid to the costumes of fishermen and the dresses of the port-communities.

The second step of the project was the realization of a fashion-collection, combining various fabrics selected and collected during the first phase of the project. The aim was to create pieces of clothing that could embody a multicultural representation. There is the possibility to print quotes from the dialogues with the people on the cloth, to make visible small fragments of the communication on the piece itself.

Waiting for Water



The event was an occasion for the two cities of Biella and Ivrea to come together. They are separated by a natural barrier, a morainal hill known as the "Serra", but they are also united in their bond to the water that flows in the torrents that cross these cities, and by their industries (textile and electronic). Walid Maw'ed's project faces the water issues that exist between Israel and Palestine, which assume a global dimension thanks to the intervention of art and then go back to the local dimension that is reflected in the realities of Biella and Ivrea.

The project consisted of an artistic intervention in a public space and in an information point. In detail, 196 square metres of fabric formed an architectural element (21m x 7m) suspended over the Dora River. With this architectural barrier, the perception of the space around the river changes as it blocks the visitor's usual sight. The black barrier gives the impression that it can stop the water, thus bringing forward the question of the power of its flow. The colour black of the sheet ideologically reflects the state of power and in this context represents an unusual and extremely artificial element, which limits our perspectives.

An information point was set up in the foyer of the Town Hall in Ivrea with maps and images that indicate the distribution and control of the water sources in Palestine and Israel from a geographical and political point of view.

The Little Black Dress ... Can Fly



This idea was criticized due to its simplicity and impossible implementation, as it is an abstract work without any noticeable fashion trends. The dress made from simple natural fabric, cotton, is not common in the clothing industry. The design of this work was the start of a new vision of art design in my practice.

My work progress was like this: I sewed 4 black semi transparent cotton fabric pieces. The cloth was fixed on a 3X2m frame, on top of which I placed a shape of a basic dress using the same colour and fabric. The dress was fixed using hand stitches. The general idea was to translate this idea to modified mannequins.

In order not to leave it at the frame "level", I decided to go forward with the metamorphosis and to show the entire situation through the black images.

Like the mannequin itself that represent for me an outside look, the black cape as an object that connects me to power and sadness, and finally – the transparency, as a symbol for hope.