

## biography of the israelian artists *fuks/fish*

shlomo fish was born in palestine. his mother is an emigrant from vienna, who attended in 1910 the funeral of the viennese mayor karl lueger. eva schlittner emigrated with her parents to palestine in the year 1914 and settled in the kibuz degania. shlomo's father avraham fish is the son of a jewish family that has been living in jerusalem for many generations. shlomo fish started to work in the kibuz mipi ha-shemu'ah, where he dedicated himself to the education of children and teenagers in the kibuz. during these years he developed his artistic skills as an autodidact. from the middle of the 1960s onwards he has been displaying his work in his kibuz. each year shlomo fish and his daughter blume fuks are showing their artistic projects in an exhibition.

blume fuks was born in 1957 in the kibuz mipi ha-shemu'ah in israel. she was first educated to become an agronomist, and then studied two years at the art school bezalel in jerusalem. from 1981 onwards she began her artistical co-operation with her father as *fuks/fish*.

with his wife zipora and his daughter blume who is herself a mother of three shlomo fish is living in the kibbutz mipi ha-shemu'ah. in 1997 the two artists *fuks/fish* were awarded the israelian moshe rayoni award, a prize for outstanding achievements in the field of agro-logistical intervention-art.

an artistic project brought the two artists *fuks/fish* in December 2009 to Vienna on the Jewish part of the viennese central cemetery. they visited for their project the graves of their relatives and document these graves agrostologically with the german title "graeber& graeser" (tombs&grasses"). during this stay they learned about the *open call* and they decided to take part in the call.

the artists *fuks/fish* organize their project around the probably best known quotation of karl lueger, a quotation which was already told to shlomo fish by his mother eva schlittner: "wer ein jude ist, bestime ich", and the dialect version "wer a jud is, bestim' i". the phonetic transfer of this quotation into the english language: "where are you? these – bash them!" includes for *fuks/fish* all questions (and answers) that appear in connection with karl lueger and the lueger-monument.

the question of the location "where are you?" is oriented towards the lueger-monument, its place in the city, and as well towards the city of vienna herself, who is making a monument like this possible. the second part of the phonetic transfer "these – bash them!" is synonymous for the anonymous brutality, with which the members of a non-christian religious belief were made a prey for the mob and declared unprotected game.

especially the formula "bash them" is represented in *fuks/fish's* interpretation in a phonetic way that recalls in a drastic way the speeches of adolf hitler.

the green coloured "i" ( stands for the "ich" from the dialect version of the above mentioned quotation) that covers the whole surface of the artistic intervention, shall be read as a symbol for the autocratic mayor. at the same time the "i" is forming the blades of grass that have grown over the hidden, but still smouldering antisemitism.

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shlomo fish

blume fuks