

## Stav Porges

# Leaving Room

The complex and enigmatic dialogical process that takes place between the artist, the work, and the viewers is what lies at the heart of Stav Porges' exhibition. Her art engages with human connections and intimacy between people. In her *Boutique Shawarma* project she established, in collaboration with other creators, a variety of settings, where the audience was invited to get a haircut, get served at a bar, or get a manicure. Inspired by the close-knit relationships between the female members of her family, Porges grapples with the big questions of life: What exactly do we need in life? What is real? And also: What is art, and how should it be examined?

In Porges' first solo exhibition, the gallery serves as a temporary home environment, consisting of four spaces of the sort where we usually host and are hosted: dining area, living room, yard, and bedroom. Visitors are invited to spend time in them. One can sit on a chair in the garden

and read a newspaper, lay one's head upon a pillow, or water the flowers. The presentation of a home within a space that is designated for art raises various questions, such as the very question as to whether or not an exhibition can really function as a home.

This past year, in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, our domestic environments have undergone profound upheavals: on the one hand, we find ourselves spending long hours at home; on the other hand, changes in communication and work modes have compelled us to expose our private space before other people on a daily basis. In light of these changes, Porges seeks to allow the home (that is, the exhibition space) to revert to the place she has known since childhood – a space of candidness and hospitality. She herself plans to spend time in the exhibition space and invite visitors to talk with her about art, artistic creation, and the home. These conversations will be video recorded and broadcast live on Porges' Instagram page, and in future will also be edited for a podcast. Consequently, the exhibition spaces will also serve as a kind of photographic setting for the human

encounters that will take place in them, and the exhibition will also take place within the digital spaces of social media, which in the past year have also become a kind of home.

Porges strives to create art that engages in a creative, relevant, and active process in the world, of which the viewers' presence and responses are an essential component; art that can, and should, permeate every corner of life. We, for our part, are invited to sit on the couch, say how we take our coffee – and talk about it.

Hagar Raban