

# From Metropolis to Monopoly— Makor Artists Win With ‘Metropoly’

Multimedia arts festival explores the meaning of urban living

By YVONNE MARCOTTE  
*Epoch Times National Staff*

The freedom to create art in a supportive environment—and work with other skilled artists—has to be a nice way to spend one’s day, and the Makor Gallery has provided that environment. On Jan. 28, 27 artists presented their artistic labors in a one-day multimedia arts festival.

As described in the program, the eighth Makor Marathon “celebrates the collective and individual efforts of Makor Artists-in-Residence.” The theme of this year’s festival is the urban landscape from Jerusalem to New York, creating the “conceptual group city” of Metropoly. The artists explored ancient cities from Babel, Jericho, and Jerusalem to modern cities and even a celluloid city created in Fritz Lang’s “Metropolis.”

Exhibits featured photography, video, theater, visual art, sculpture, and various performance art. A large monopoly-style game board took center stage in a front exhibit area with unusual game board names such as “Ishtar’s gate,” “communal well,” and “synagogue.”

As part of a series on intimacy, the photographs of Oz Lubling depict simple and direct images of everyday life. His photographs of people sitting or standing alone in an urban setting were beautifully composed with a nice balance of color.

Although posed, the subject seemed to be a natural part of the setting. An interesting video installation was Nurit Bar-Shai’s,



*Oz Lubling/Makor*

**ALONE IN THE CITY:** *Oz Lubling’s photograph expresses solitude in an urban landscape.*

“Imaging You.” Using a two-way mirror, camera, and projector in a darkened room, the viewer stands before a mirror to see a familiar reflection while at the same time a projector displays him the way others might see him—a simple concept that invites us to greater reflection. A mother found it a neat place to play with her toddler, lifting him up and down before the mirror. A man, too tall for him to see his upper face, stood there anyway, just looking at what was there.

Large cities can so often ignore those who suffer from serious psychological disorders. Playwright Gary Mizel writes about mental disorders with keen insight and compassion. In a scene from his play “Me and My Voices,” Mr. Mizel takes us into the mind of a schizophrenic. The character Harriett—beautifully interpreted by actor Denia Brache—tells the audience all about the voices that torment her every waking moment.

Publicist of the event Meryl Wheeler said the Metropoly marathon is a way for promising artists to have their work exhibited in New York. The city could use more events like Metropoly to explore the meaning of urban living.

*The Makor Gallery is located at 35 West 67th Street, New York. The Metropoly art exhibit will be on view from Jan. 25 through Feb. 22. Call for gallery hours (212-413-8842).*