

diwan

social sculpture
in collaboration with Fawzy Emrany

14 to 26 May 2007 — The Duke's Diwan, Amman, JOR — No Condition is Permanent,
a project on art in public space by Rayelle Niemann — Duration: daily from 5 to 7 pm

Background — The traditional stone building on Faisal Street in the Old City of Amman was constructed in 1924. It housed the main post office and the Hotel Haifa before being acquired in 2004 by Mamdouh Bishara, local patron and collector of traditional art. The Duke's Diwan is a meeting place for intellectuals, writers and artists. It is open to everyone who appreciates a relaxed atmosphere, stories, books, all kinds of curiosities from various decades.

Setting — For two weeks, Mamdouh Bishara turns over his office to X, Y, and Fawzy Emrany for use as a work space. The room is equipped with a heavy old desk, a large cabinet vitrine and a sprawling living room set.

Materials and Preparation — The furniture is pushed against the wall. On the floor, a brightly coloured, braided plastic rug. A net of twine stretched diagonally between the walls. On one side, the net has been hung so low that the visitors are forced to sit on the floor. On the wall above the netore, the artist's preparatory studies, which were made in Amman.

Procedure — Every day between 10 am and 7 pm, X, Y, and Fawzy Emrany receive guests and serve them coffee and tea. Conversations are centered around art, urban development, the situation in the Middle East, religion, the European Union. Art- and theatre student participants in the workshops that X and Y gave in their first week in Amman take advantage of the opportunity to continue the exchange.

