

*From the "Heres 2000" catalog, Curator: Ruti Direktor.*

Similar Wonder is elicited by Hilla ben Ari's installation, which is based on recurring elements created through meticulous manual labor. Hanging on one of the walls is a long line of clay arches, uniform in shape and size, covered with (real and artificial) hair. Resting on a fine metal pedestal are small eggs covered with hair. Long latex sheets are suspended from above, pierced by hundreds of metal pins hand-made by Ben Ari, one by one. Each such small pin is dipped in ceramic material.

The repetition of the same act' the object's reproduction through manual labor, generate a setting whose impact on the viewer is immense, touching upon the compulsive, therapeutic, expressive. Ben Ari's objects are not entirely decipherable, and the latex sheets create translucent screens, which, on one hand invite one to look through them, and on the other, create a partition, leaving the work in an ongoing state of blockage, unreadability. The resulting installation conveys a spectral sense, of an airy, unreal entity, and the ultimate experience is that of screened vision and an inability to see things "as they are".