

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: *Matanel Photography @ A Golden Light*
Year: 2025

Name of the Program: Matanel Photography @ A Golden Light

Year of activity: 2025

Name of the report's writer: Dafna Ichilov

Function of the report's writer: Head of the Program

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Number of active participants in the program: 9

Estimated number of impacted participants: 15 direct impacted and their families

Give the actual state of the program:

Following a call for entry, the program was launched in February 2025 and will continue until the end of December 2025. It includes 9 participants. Each participant meets, accompanies, and documents an elderly person or an elderly couple. The documentation is carried out through still photography, video, sound recordings, musical compositions, historical research, written documentation, interviews, and more. The documented materials are uploaded to an archival designated drive, and a periodical activity report is submitted to head of the program, Dafna Ichilov (photographer, head of the Musrara School 40+ Photography program and a faculty member).

Alongside the ongoing work, periodic group meetings are held as well as private ones with both Dafna and Avi Sabag- Musrara School Founding Director who serves as an artistic advisor.

Some of the participants will continue their work after the yearlong period of the program as their work involves video editing, sound editing and some will continue escorting their elderly partner.

One of the participants experienced a tragedy- His son was badly injured in Gaza during the war. This created a major setback with the project, but he insists on continuing.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

A special personal and intimate bond was created between the active participants and the beneficiaries during the project. A bond that continues after the period of the program and undergoes refinements as time passes.

A special enrichment workshop custom-made for the program was delivered to the participants by Professor Doron Rabina, an artist, curator, writer, and a professor of art education. he is also a certified spiritual guide.

The workshop goals were:

1. Becoming familiar with various ways in which art and creativity intersect with old age and end-of-life.
2. Providing tools for creating close dialogue, attentive listening, and empathy with an elderly conversation partner.
Understanding the psychological components related to aging, the motivations for participating in a documentary project, and stepping into the shoes of the elderly person being documented.
3. Refining one's self-perspective as a person and as a creator, while reflecting on "the end of life" as a foundation for creative processes.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...): This is the 1st cohort of the program and it will end at the end of 2025. Currently to head of the program conducts follow ups and gives feedbacks/ Avi Sabag, the School's Founding Director serves as a heads- on advisor to the participants. As can be read in the testimonies, the impact of the program is already significant both to the beneficiaries and the active participants.

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

1. Six group meetings should be held over approximately 11 months.
2. A written monthly report must be submitted, detailing the number of meetings held, progress, and insights.
3. It is necessary to consistently upload visual materials and/or audio recordings to a designated folder, in order to allow the head of the program to monitor the project's progress.
4. The summer period creates a certain slackening and creative "drowsiness"; people go on vacation, travel abroad, etc. A break of about a month and a half (from mid-July to the end of August) should be allowed, and a meeting should be scheduled for the beginning of September. Nonetheless, participants must meet with the documented individuals at least twice during this period.
5. It is recommended to set a "checkpoint" at the end of May. A participant who does not meet all requirements will face suspension from the program and non-payment of the remaining scholarship funds.