

## *Human Nature: Shared Sensitivities*

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The five installations in *Human Nature: Shared Sensitivities* delve into themselves, searching for a core, a point at which reality converges. “For Heaven’s sake,” the theme of the 2019 Jerusalem Biennale, comes from the Mishna: “Every dispute that is for the sake of Heaven will in the end endure” (Ethics of the Fathers 5:17). The works touch on the fracture found in every dispute, a situation that is, perhaps, unsolvable, but whose ideas may enrich. Webs of meaning connect the works: all relate to liminal areas, to flexibility and obsession, as well as meditation on the point where paths in a dispute separate and converge in reconciliation.

David Benarroch defines a space, frames it in metal and creates a spectacular dialogue between material and form. He approaches art as an essence with an internally directed vector, with and against which the artistic act evolves, but where randomness also plays a role. Benarroch uses salt, a material that disinfectants, heal, preserves and even kills, wood, and wax, along with synthetic materials like silicone and nylon. He creates dialectical dialogues between the materials that processing methods, such as heat, change in unexpected ways.

A degree of uncertainty is contained, even celebrated within the delineated space: a dispute in which one can spend time. *Negative Capability*, the title of the work, was a term coined by the Romantic poet John Keats to describe the ability to remain uncertain and doubtful, and to value artistic beauty over understanding.

In the melancholy space between memory and rebuilding of a past, and between the ability to first find a discussion in disagreement and to recognize the beauty of ambiguity – this is where we find shared sensitivities. These are what will endure.