COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Beyond the Expected

An unfiltered conversation and personal creative workshop

Whose idea of success are you pursuing?

College comes with a question that follows you everywhere: What are you going to do with your life? Tomer Peretz invites students to pause before answering and consider whose idea of success they are pursuing. Drawing on the risks, failures, and unexpected turns in his own life, he explores what it takes to choose a direction before you have everything figured out.

His stories open an honest conversation about identity, taking risks, trusting your instincts, and moving forward without a complete plan. He invites students to consider what they might pursue if they gave themselves permission to choose differently.



COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

The person behind the experience.

Tomer Peretz is an Israeli-American artist, speaker, storyteller, and founder of The 8 Project. His story begins in southeast Jerusalem, where he grew up amid the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He later served as a combat officer in the Golani Brigade and built a career as an artist in Los Angeles while living with PTSD for more than two decades.

His path has been shaped by experiences he could not have planned and choices that did not follow a conventional script. Onstage, he shares those experiences with candor and unexpected humor, inviting students to question the expectations that shape their own decisions.

In 2025, the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles selected Tomer as its first artist in residence. His work with The 8 Project combines creative practice, mentorship, therapeutic support, and community to help veterans and trauma survivors rebuild daily life.



An unconventional life.
A different perspective.

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

SEE ME Board

A self-portrait without drawing.

Students choose magazine images, words, and colors, then cut, arrange, and layer them on a physical board. The collage becomes a personal response to the conversation, shaped by their own choices.

For college students, the focus is on identity, expectations, and direction: what feels inherited, what feels chosen, and what they want to make room for in their own lives.

Tomer works individually with participants as their ideas take shape. Each student decides what to share and what to keep private. They leave with a personal piece to take home and return to.

No drawing skills or art experience needed. All art materials provided.



Concept illustration. Each student’s work will be unique.

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

The experience, in practice.

A personal response to a shared conversation.

After the talk, each student creates a personal collage to take home. Through images and words, they explore the gap between the life they feel expected to build and the one they want to make their own.

The emphasis is on individual expression. Tomer guides the activity and works personally with students as their ideas take shape. Participants decide what to express and how much to share, leaving with a piece they can revisit as their perspective develops.

FORMAT & LOGISTICS

Duration

Two hours, including the talk and personal creative workshop.

Location

At Tomer’s studio in Los Angeles or on the host college or university campus.

Travel

Available for engagements outside Los Angeles. Travel arrangements are coordinated with the host.

Experience

No prior art experience is needed.

Materials

All art materials are provided by Tomer and his team.

Planning

Group size, space, materials, and the focus of the conversation are coordinated with the host in advance.

For more information & booking

Efrat Didi · efrat@the8project.org