SCHOOLS · AGES 14+

Nothing Is What It Seems

A personal talk and creative workshop

**His story opens the conversation.
Their art keeps it going.**

At an age when fitting in can feel like everything, Tomer Peretz opens a conversation about what gets lost when we try to become who others expect us to be. Through stories from his own unconventional life, he connects with students around identity, belonging, peer pressure, addiction, and the choices that shape who we become.

He invites students to look beyond first impressions, including the assumptions they make about themselves. What do others see when they look at us? What do they miss? And how much of who we become is shaped by the pressure to fit in?



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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 life as an artist in Los Angeles. He has lived with PTSD for more than two decades.

His candid storytelling and unexpected humor make room for conversations that can be difficult to begin. He draws on personal experience to explore identity, the pressure to conform, and the possibility of choosing a different path.

In 2025, the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles selected Tomer as its first artist in residence. He created Art Will S8t You Free with more than 800 trauma survivors and has worked with more than 2,000 people, including combat veterans and military reservists.



“Reaching our students is not always easy. Standing before them, Tomer created a fascinating encounter that sparked a wide range of thoughts, feelings, and emotions.”

The Hebrew Gymnasium, Jerusalem

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Two ways to make it personal.

SEE ME Board

A self-portrait without drawing. Students select magazine images, words, and colors, then cut, arrange, and layer them on a physical board. Each student decides what to share and what to keep private. The finished piece goes home with them.



One Desk. One Chair. Many Voices.

Working with Tomer, students combine magazine images and words on a school desk and chair. Individual perspectives become one collective work that stays at school. The school provides one desk and chair for each group.



Concept illustrations. Each student’s or group’s finished work will be unique.

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The experience, in practice.

The conversation continues through something they create.

The talk flows into a hands-on creative workshop led by Tomer. The school chooses a personal SEE ME Board or a collaborative desk-and-chair installation.

Both formats explore identity and what others may not see beneath the surface. The creative format and any smaller sessions or rotations are planned with the school. Each student chooses what to express and how much to share.

No art experience is needed.
Every student chooses their own starting point.

For more information & booking

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FORMAT & LOGISTICS

Duration

Two hours, including the talk and creative workshop.

Location

At Tomer’s studio in Los Angeles or at the host school.

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

The format, group sizes, space, and timing are coordinated in advance. For the group option, the school supplies one desk and chair per group.