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CREST FEST 2013 SPOTLIGHT: NIRIT LEVAV

by Paul Pastore
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This Saturday artist **Nirit Levav** is showing some of her work in Williamsburg as part of Crest Fest 2013. Hosted by Crest Hardware, the festival features live music as well as art “about, made with, for and/or inspired by hardware.”

Graduating from Parsons with degree in fashion design, Nirit originally specialized in making wedding dresses. After a while she became disillusioned with her profession and chose to leave the industry. “I started to feel like more of a therapist for the brides,” she explains, “rather than a designer.” Using the metal cutting skills that her father, acclaimed set designer Tzvi Levav, had taught her, she began to make art instead.

The Tel Aviv-based sculptor is an obvious choice for Crest because she creates work exclusively using repurposed materials like light bulbs, nails, and mattresses. “My natural state is of collecting and hoarding, and I find it very hard to throw things away,” Nirit says. “It starts with food, clothes, furniture etc. I always think what can I do with things first.”

Lately Nirit’s been creating a series of work titled *Nirit Levav’s Dogs Collection*, comprised of dog sculptures made out of discarded bicycle parts that she finds in the trash of her home city’s bike shops. She explains that her artistic fascination with dogs gives her the freedom of creative exploration but still lend itself to be worked into a cohesive series.

“I try to make each dog with a different technique mostly for me. I find it boring repeating the same technique,” Nirit says. “I find it challenging to work with the same material and getting different variations of what they look like and how they feel.”

At Crest Fest Nirit will be showing three pieces from her collection of dog sculptures: *Sit*, *Parris*, and *Tuzzi*. *Sit* is made of pedals, chains, and a bicycle seat. *Parris* will be a “pure bread, fancy dog,” and as Nirit describes, “*Tuzzi* is a dog defecating, in a ventilated welding job.”

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