

Curios

"Curios" is a site-specific installation located at the State Silk Museum in Tbilisi, Georgia. Yaniv, an artist in residence, presented her work through a solo exhibition at the conclusion of her residency. The State Silk Museum, founded by natural scientist Nikolai Shavrov, is one of the world's oldest silk museums. It occupies a building designed by Polish architect Alexander Shimkevich in 1887, specifically for the Caucasian Sericulture Station, and is recognized as a cultural heritage monument.

The museum's collection showcases objects from 63 countries, offering comprehensive insights into silk and sericulture. Exhibits include a unique assortment of cocoons, information on silkworm biology, specialized containers for silkworms and eggs, 19th-century textiles produced in the Caucasus, lace produced in Germany, natural and chemical dyes with colored threads from 16 countries, a collection of 161 butterfly species, and materials associated with the mulberry tree. The museum's library, where Yaniv chose to display her work, houses rare books on natural sciences in multiple languages dating back to the 18th-19th centuries. The library also features authentic furniture based on the architect's original sketches.

Yaniv's installation incorporates drawings she created during her residency and materials found on-site, such as wooden containers, silk remnants, discarded instruments, and old photos. The 19th-century library played a significant role in the installation's composition. The main installation was mounted horizontally on heavy wooden tables at the center of the library, constructed from wooden boxes found on-site. The installation evoked the diverse Georgian landscape, encompassing mountains, sea, and the unique urban texture of Tbilisi. Visitors were encouraged to walk along the installation's path, experiencing a sense of a transforming place in dialogue with the ornate 19th-century architecture.

In addition to the main horizontal installation, Yaniv incorporated faux books made with silk prints of her own images sourced from rare natural history books found in the library. These "books" were placed on shelves, by the window, and in a large horizontal vitrine within the library. At the back of the room, the artist presented a large "gift" box with paintings wrapped in silk, paying homage to the first director of the Sericulture Station, who once used the desk over 120 years ago. The library and installation resembled a layered landscape where culture, history, and nature converged.