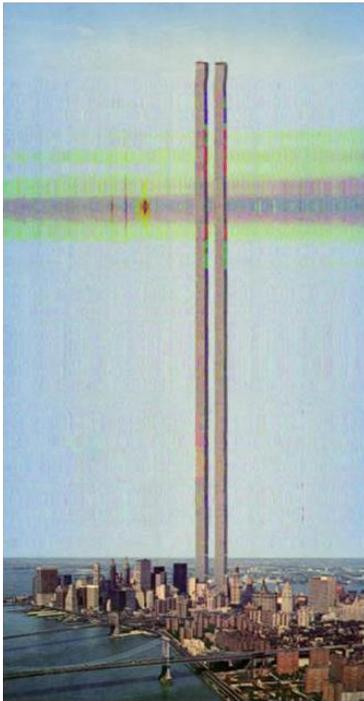




מוזיאון ישראל, ירושלים  
the israel museum, jerusalem  
متحف إسرائيل، أورشليم القدس

## Israel Museum Acquires Major Collection of Contemporary Israeli Photography

**Acquisition builds on the Museum's history of collecting in photography, broadening the range and depth of its holdings in the medium**



Assaf Shacham, *American dream (twins)*, 2011

**Jerusalem, Israel** (November 19, 2015) — The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, today announced a major addition to its photography holdings through the acquisition of 55 works of contemporary Israeli photography from the Shalom Shpilman Collection. Works by both emerging and established photographers are represented, including Ilit Azoulay, Micha Bar Am, Dganit Berest, Yossi Breger, Dor Guez, Michal Heiman, Yehudit Sasportas, Assaf Shacham and Rona Yefman, among others. This acquisition has been made possible through a partial gift of Shalom Shpilman, Tel Aviv and through the generous support of Linda and Michael G. Jesselson, New York; Nathalie and Jean Daniel Maman-Cohen, Paris; Marion and Guy Naggar, London; Lauren and Mitchell Presser, New York; and Roselyne C. Swig, San Francisco. And it extends the Museum's longstanding tradition of collecting photography, further distinguishing it as one of the world's leading holdings with more than 75,000 works spanning the history of the medium from the time of its invention to the present. The newly acquired works will be on view in May 2016 in the Museum's annual *New in Photography* display.

“Given our history as one of the first museums worldwide to collect photography as a curatorial medium, the Israel Museum is very pleased to acquire works that enhance the scope of our holdings and strengthen immeasurably an important chapter in our own history of

photography in Israel, and notably in the rich period of photographic invention in Israel since the 1980's,” said James S. Snyder, Anne and Jerome Fisher Director of the Israel Museum. “We are grateful to Shalom Shpilman for his role in this gift and for his ongoing support of the Museum's photography collection and program, and to our international friends who have enabled this important acquisition, recognizing the importance of this step in further developing our representation of contemporary photographic history in Israel. As our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year draws to a close, with its focus on gifts to the collections that fill gaps and strengthen our holdings across all mediums, this could not have been a more meaningful initiative for us”

Shalom Shpilman, an honorary fellow of the Israel Museum, endowed the Shpilman International Prize for Excellence in Photography at the Israel Museum in 2013. The prize is awarded every two years and was most recently awarded to the American practitioner Lisa Oppenheim.

“Contemporary Israeli photography-based artists have been making waves in the international art scene, and many of the works we are now acquiring are part of this recent trend,” said Noam Gal, Noel and

Harriette Levine Curator of the Museum's Department of Photography. "We selected these particular works to expand this dimension of our collection and to provide a crucial link to the longer history of Israeli photography, giving us a unique ability to tell this particular story to audiences in Israel and worldwide."

### **About the Noel and Harriette Levine Department of Photography at the Israel Museum**

Since its opening in 1965, the Israel Museum has maintained a focus on the exploration and exhibition of photography, and its comprehensive collection marks the Museum as a leader among encyclopedic museums in developing its holdings in the medium. Over the years, through selected acquisitions, as well as gifts from key donors such as Arnold Newman, Arturo Schwarz, and Noel and Harriette Levine, the department's collection has grown to comprise over 75,000 works from the earliest days of photography to contemporary times. Areas of expertise include pioneering 19th-century photography from the Middle East, photography of the Dada and Surrealist movements, as well as in-depth representations of such historically significant artists as Richard Avedon, Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Andre Kertész, and Man Ray. The department also promotes contemporary Israeli photography through an active program of acquisitions as well as through individual and group exhibitions dedicated to the work of Israeli photographers. In addition, the department awards three photography prizes, the Gérard Lévy Prize for a Young Photographer, the Kavlin Photography Prize for life achievement, and the Shpilman International Prize for Excellence in Photography.

### **The Israel Museum, Jerusalem**

The Israel Museum is the largest cultural institution in the State of Israel and is ranked among the leading art and archaeology museums in the world. Founded in 1965, the Museum houses encyclopedic collections ranging from prehistory through contemporary art and includes the most extensive holdings of Biblical and Holy Land archaeology in the world, among them the Dead Sea Scrolls. Over its first 50 years, the Museum has built a far-ranging collection of nearly 500,000 objects through an unparalleled legacy of gifts and support from its circle of patrons worldwide.

The Museum's 20-acre campus, which underwent comprehensive renewal in 2010 designed by James Carpenter Design Associates and Efrat-Kowalsky Architects, features the Billy Rose Art Garden, the Shrine of the Book, and more than 225,000 square feet of collection and temporary exhibition galleries. The Museum also organizes programming at its off-site locations in Jerusalem at the Rockefeller Archaeological Museum, where it presents archaeological artifacts from the ancient Land of Israel; and at its historic Ticho House, a venue for exhibitions of contemporary Israeli art.

The Museum is celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout 2015, with a year-long program devoted to an exploration of Israel's aesthetic culture in the 50 years before and after its founding.

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