



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

## Israel Museum Announces 2016 Exhibition Highlights

### *Exhibitions in Archaeology, Fine Arts, and Architecture Reflect on Cross-Cultural Exchange Spanning Millennia*

**Jerusalem** (January 7, 2015) — The Israel Museum, Jerusalem today announced its upcoming program of exhibitions for 2016, following the conclusion of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations throughout 2015. From focused presentations of international contemporary artists to exhibitions exploring cross-cultural themes, the Museum's 2016 program embraces topics spanning continents, genres, and time periods.

Opening on March 4 as a centerpiece of the Museum's 2016 season, *Pharaoh in Canaan: The Untold Story* marks the first-ever exhibition to explore the cross-cultural ties between Egypt and Canaan during the second millennium BCE through an unprecedented display of more than 650 ancient artifacts. Featuring objects discovered in Egypt and Israel, the exhibition illuminates the cross-fertilization of ritual practices and aesthetic vocabularies between these two distinct ancient cultures. On view beginning July 1, *Social Construction: Modern Architecture in British Mandate Palestine* extends into the 20<sup>th</sup> century this same exploration of how distinct cultures can coalesce to inform the development of new cultural expressions by highlighting the transformative impact of early European modernism on the development of architecture in Palestine during the British Mandate.

"The notion of cross-cultural dialogue goes right to the heart of everything we do at the Israel Museum, resonating deeply with the rich narratives of aesthetic interchange found throughout our encyclopedic collections," said James S. Snyder, Anne and Jerome Fisher Director of the Israel Museum. "In 2016, we are exploring this theme to showcase the ongoing phenomenon of cultural and aesthetic exchange that has marked the history of civilization and that continues worldwide today."

Highlights from the 2016 season include:



*Georges Adéagbo, Preparatory installation, 2015*

### **Georges Adéagbo: Africa in Jerusalem February 17 – May 6, 2016**

Benin-based artist Georges Adéagbo creates a site-specific installation for the Israel Museum's Focus Gallery. A strong, distinctive voice in the contemporary art world since the mid-1990s, Adéagbo's floor and wall installations present a complex network of concepts and associations reflected in materials collected during extensive stays in Israel and Benin. Using his own texts, found objects, and books, as well as paintings and sculptures created by his studio colleagues in Cotonou, Adéagbo constructs complex collages—termed by him as "Horizontal

Archaeology"—that explore how individuals interpret cultures and the history of a place based on their own experiences. For his installation at the Israel Museum, the artist traveled throughout Israel, merging findings from his trip with his own idiosyncratic narratives and visual associations.

*The exhibition is curated by Rita Kersting, Landeau Family Curator of Contemporary Art.*

***Pharaoh in Canaan: The Untold Story***

**March 4 – October 25, 2016**

*Pharaoh in Canaan* tells the highly revelatory and previously untold story of the rich cross-cultural ties between Egypt and Canaan during the second millennium BCE. The exhibition presents more than 680 objects demonstrating the cross-fertilization of ritual practices and aesthetic vocabularies between these two distinct ancient cultures. From large-scale royal victory steles and anthropoid coffins to scarabs and amulets, the exhibition features an array of archaeological artifacts discovered in Israel and Egypt—including many drawn from the Museum's own collections, together with major loans from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; the Louvre Museum, Paris; the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna; the Egyptian Museum in Turin, Italy; and other collections.



*Canaanite amulet, schematic nude goddess in Egyptian style, Tell el-Ajjul, 15<sup>th</sup> century BCE*

*The exhibition is curated by Dr. Daphna Ben-Tor, Jeannette and Jonathan Rosen Curator of Egyptian Archaeology, and Dr. Eran Arie, Frieda Burda Curator of Iron Age and Persian Periods.*

As companions to *Pharaoh in Canaan: The Untold Story*, the Museum will present three concurrent exhibitions in Jewish Art and Life, European Art, and Israeli Art, examining Egypt's cultural and aesthetic impact across the centuries. These include ***The Allure of the Sphinx Egypt in European Art*** (March 4 – October 25, 2016); ***The Second Exodus from Egypt: 1950–1960s*** (March 4 – October 25, 2016); and ***Yitzhak Danziger: Return to Canaanite Identity*** (May 22 – September 10, 2016).



*Efrat Natan, Nocturne, 2005*

***Efrat Natan: Tar and Lime***

**April 20 – October 29, 2016**

This retrospective exhibition surveys more than four decades of creative output by the Israeli multi-disciplinary artist Efrat Natan, including works from the early 1970s, alongside new works not previously exhibited. Born in 1947 and raised in Kibbutz Kfar Rupin, Natan is one of the pioneers of conceptual and body art in Israel. Throughout her career, Natan has created a vocabulary of powerfully charged visual imagery that draws upon her own biography, the collective Israeli experience, and events in Israel today, as well as on Western and non-Western art historical traditions.

*The exhibition is curated by Aya Miron, Associate Curator, David Orgler Department of Israeli Art.*



*David Horwitz, The Distance of a Day, 2013*

***The Distance of a Day: Connections and Disconnections in Contemporary Art***

**April 20 – October 29, 2016**

This exhibition presents a selection of works recently acquired for the Museum's collection of contemporary art by some of today's most creative practitioners, among them Nina Canell, Jesse Darling, Petrit Halilaj, Lyle Ashton Harris, David Horwitz, Tala Madani, Roman Ondak, Seth Price, and Paloma Varga-Weisz. Exploring images of linkage and connection, as well as of interruption and detachment in both material and conceptual manifestations, the exhibition takes its title from *The Distance of the Day* (2013), a video work by David Horwitz presented on two iPhone screens

showing the rising and setting of the sun as filmed by the artist and his mother simultaneously on two sides of the globe.

*The exhibition is curated by Rita Kersting, Landeau Family Curator of Contemporary Art.*

***Wire(Less) Connections*** (working title)

**May 25, 2016 – March 18, 2017**

Thread, yarn, string, fiber, wire, cord, and rope—whether thin or thick, fine or coarse, natural or man-made, they share the ability to join things together. This year's annual exhibition in the Ruth Youth Wing for Art Education highlights the essential role that connecting threads play in life both today and throughout the centuries. Featuring contemporary and historical works drawn primarily from the Museum's collections, the exhibition explores notions of connection from biological and familial ties to social and technological connections in today's wireless world.

*The exhibition is curated by Daniella Shalev, Curator of Educational Programs & Events.*



*Pierre Huyghe, Human Mask, 2015*

***Pierre Huyghe***

**June 2 – September 24, 2016**

The most recent video work by acclaimed contemporary artist Pierre Huyghe, *Human Mask* (2014)—a mesmerizing and disconcerting 19-minute film—responds to a YouTube clip entitled *Fuku-chan Monkey in wig, mask, works Restaurant!*, depicting an actual incident in which a monkey—outfitted with the mask of a young girl—was trained to work as a waitress at a restaurant in Fukushima, Japan. Following the

nuclear disaster in 2011, Huyghe used a drone camera to scale the site's wreckage and to document scenes of the monkey alone in its habitat, silhouetted against a dark and empty restaurant interior. In this dystopian setting, the monkey acts out the human condition as she endlessly repeats her unconscious role, highlighting the artist's ongoing exploration of the relationship between animals and humans.

*The exhibition is curated by Rita Kersting, Landeau Family Curator of Contemporary Art.*

***Pablo Picasso: Drawing Inspiration***

**July 5 – November 19, 2016**

Tracing Picasso's artistic development, this extensive presentation features over 200 drawings and prints from the Israel Museum's own holdings, amplified by important loans from other museum collections. On view will be the complete production of Picasso's *Vollard Suite*—considered one of the most important series of prints executed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century—revealing the artist's developing interest in classical sculpture and including 100 etchings realized by the artist between 1930–1937 for his dealer Ambroise Vollard. The complete set of *Suite 347*, the last hand-signed etchings Picasso ever created, will also be on view. Produced with rapid speed by the artist in Mougins, France, between March and October 1968, this set of 347 etchings reprises Picasso's artistic autobiography, replete with references to art historical influences and to his own life's work, all merged together through Picasso's signature stream-of-consciousness. Throughout the exhibition, paintings from the Museum's own extensive holdings together with important loans from The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Musée Picasso, Paris, will signal the chapters in Picasso's unparalleled creative history.



*Pablo Picasso, Two Nudes: Maternity, ca. 1920.*

*The exhibition is curated by Tanya Sirakovich, Michael Bromberg Head Curator, Ruth and Joseph Bromberg Department of Prints and Drawings.*

***Social Construction: Modern Architecture in British Mandate Palestine***

**July 1 – December 31, 2016**

Exploring another dimension of European influence on the evolution of Israel's modernist visual heritage, this exhibition examines the significant impact of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century European modernism on the architectural language of Palestine during the period of the British Mandate, which came to be known in Palestine as White Architecture.

*Architecture in Palestine* draws inspiration from the extensive research of Israel Prize laureate architect Ada Karmi-Melamede and architect Dan Price, whose accompanying book



*Government House, Jerusalem, 1933*

of the same title explores not only the tectonic and functional aspects of this new architecture, but also the relationships among values, place, and form that influenced the formation of this new language in a new land. The exhibition features documentary, analytical, and interpretive drawings—a practice Karmi-Melamede revived and developed counter to the trend of the computer age—that provide an alternative understanding of modern architecture as an evolving language, together with stunning archival photography of some of the iconic architectural projects of the time.

*The exhibition is curated and designed by Oren Sagiv, Chief of Exhibition Design, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem.*



*Adi Nes, Untitled, (The Last Supper), 1999*

### ***Jesus in Israeli Art***

**December 25, 2016 – March 5, 2017**

This exhibition and accompanying research-based catalogue will investigate for the first time the appearance of the figure of Jesus in Israeli art as a significant, multifaceted, and ever-present phenomenon, and the evolving attitudes of Jewish, Zionist pre-state, and Israeli artists toward Jesus. With artworks spanning the period from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century through today, *Jesus in Israeli Art* will examine the complex dimensions of the image of Jesus throughout the history of Judaism and how it has become a critical presence in the story of Jewish and Israeli art. Showcasing the

evolution of this symbolic presence, from signifying the persecution of Jews and their victimhood to personifying national resurrection, the exhibition shows the figure of Jesus as a central symbol in Israeli art and provides a new perspective on Israel's artistic progression. Featured artists include Joshua Borkovsky, Marc Chagall, Maurycy Gottlieb, Moshe Gershuni, Sigalit Landau Ephraim Moses Lilien, Motti Mizrachi, Efrat Natan, Adi Nes, Abel Pann, Reuven Rubin, and Yigal Tumarkin.

*The exhibition is curated by Dr. Amitai Mendelsohn, Curator, David Orgler Department of Israeli Art.*

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibitions in 2016:**



*Bronze portraits of the Emperor Hadrian, from the British Museum (left); the Israel Museum (center); and the Louvre (right)*

*Photo: ©Elie Posner, Israel Museum, Jerusalem*

### ***Hadrian: An Emperor Cast in Bronze***

**December 22, 2015 – June 30, 2016**

The only three extant bronze portraits of the Emperor Hadrian (117 – 138 CE) are brought together for a first-time display in the Israel Museum's Archaeology Wing, marking a symbolic return of the Emperor to Jerusalem, whose last visit to the city was in 130 CE. From among the thousands of bronze portraits that dotted the landscape of Hadrian's empire, only three survive. The Israel Museum's bronze, which was found in a Roman legion camp near Beth Shean in the north of Israel, depicts the emperor in military garb with beautifully preserved body armor. It is flanked by two other extraordinary examples: one from the British Museum found in 1834 in the river Thames, which may have been created to commemorate Hadrian's visit to Britain in 122 CE; the other, from the

collection of the Louvre Museum, considered to have originated in Egypt or Asia Minor.

*The exhibition is curated by David Mevorach, Senior Curator of Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine Archaeology, and Rachel Caine-Kreinin, Associate Curator, together with Thorsten Opper, Curator of Greek and Roman Sculpture, The British Museum.*

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