



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

## 2015 Exhibition Highlights



*Ido Michaeli, Bank Hapoalim Carpet, 2014*

### **6 Artists / 6 Projects**

**February 10 – August 29, 2015**

The Israel Museum initiates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year with an exhibition recognizing six contemporary artists whose work reflects the diverse creativity of Israeli art today. Participating artists Uri Gershuni, Roi Kupper, Dana Levy, Tamir Lichtenberg, Ido Michaeli, and Gilad Ratman each presents recent projects in his or her own dedicated gallery in solo exhibitions at the Museum. Embracing disciplines from photography to installation, their works resonate with the Museum's ongoing practice of providing a platform for the art of the "now"—a pioneering concept at the time of the Museum's founding in 1965, and especially in the context of its role as an encyclopedic institution.

*Curated by Mira Lapidot, Yulla and Jacques Lipchitz Chief Curator of the Fine Arts; Dr. Noam Gal, Horace and Grace Goldsmith Senior Curator of the Noel and Harriette Levine Department of Photography; Amitai Mendelsohn, Curator of the David Orgler Department of Israeli Art; Aya Miron, Associate Curator, David Orgler Department of Israeli Art.*

### **1965 Today**

**March 31 – August 29, 2015**

A centerpiece of the Museum's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, this exhibition explores the visual and aesthetic character of Israel in 1965, the year the Museum was founded. Opening with a diorama-style presentation of a classic Israeli-designed interior from the period, *1965 Today* focuses on the creative production of Israel's artists of the time, including artists whose works were shown in the new Israel Museum and elsewhere across Israel's emerging art scene in the mid-1960s. Iconic examples of contemporary art from Europe and the U.S. will be referenced, as will dominant international movements that influenced Israeli art, among them post-World War II Abstraction and the emerging movements of Pop Art, Op Art, and Minimalism. *1965 Today* features works drawn from the Museum's holdings, together with important loans from collections worldwide.

*Curated by Mira Lapidot, Yulla and Jacques Lipchitz Chief Curator of the Fine Arts; Noga Eliash-Zalmanovich, Associate Curator, Stella Fischbach Department of Modern Art; and Aya Miron, Associate Curator, David Orgler Department of Israeli Art.*

### ***1965: Moving Image***

**March 31 – August 29, 2015**

A companion exhibition to *1965 Today*, *1965: Moving Image* explores the growing presence and evolutionary development of photographic imagery of the period, predominantly through news reels, home movies, and early experimental work in video and cinema.

*Curated by Dr. Noam Gal, Horace and Grace Goldsmith Senior Curator of the Noel and Harriette Levine Department of Photography.*

### ***Dan Reisinger: Graphic Design in Israel***

**April 30 – August 29, 2015**

A companion exhibition to *1965 Today*, *Dan Reisinger: Graphic Design in Israel* examines a body of work by one of Israel's most prominent graphic designers, whose significant contribution to Israeli visual culture was recognized when he received the Israel Prize for Design in 1998. This retrospective exhibition features over 200 works, including posters, corporate logos, environmental designs and calendars, whose bold colors and unique vocabulary made a significant mark on Israel's visual landscape from the 1960's onward and formed the identities of many leading Israeli companies, cultural, public and national organizations. The exhibition also marks the announcement of the gift of Reisinger's seminal archives to the Museum's Department of Design and Architecture.

*Curated by Osnat Sirkin, Associate Curator, Department of Design and Architecture.*

### ***50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Shrine of the Book***

**April 19, 2015 – April 26, 2016**



*Frederic Kiesler (left) and Armand Bartos at the opening of the Shrine of the Book, April 1965.*

Two special exhibitions commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Shrine of the Book, home to the Dead Sea Scrolls, which opened to the public in April 1965 as a prelude to the opening of the full Israel Museum campus several weeks later. The first exhibition is devoted to the unique history and design of the Shrine itself, which is an iconic work of modernist expressionist architecture, designed by Frederic Kiesler and Armand Bartos. The second features the world's smallest version of the Hebrew Bible, the Nano Bible, created by the Russell Berrie Nanotechnology Institute at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. This display serves as a contemporary complement to the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest Biblical manuscripts in the world, providing audiences with a unique opportunity to examine the technological evolution of the Hebrew Bible from antiquity to the postmodern era.

*The Architecture of the Shrine of the Book is curated by Osnat Sirkin, Associate Curator, Department of Design and Architecture. The Nano Bible is curated by Dr. Adolfo Roitman, Lizbeth and George Krupp Curator of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Head of the Shrine of the Book.*

***A Brief History of Humankind: From the Collections of the Israel Museum, Jerusalem***  
**May 1 – December 26, 2015**

The rich and diverse holdings of the Israel Museum span a timeline of hundreds of thousands of years, from the dawn of human civilization to contemporary life. In celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May, the Museum opens a major temporary exhibition offering a brief history of humankind, as told through twelve pivotal objects from its holdings that illustrate the unfolding of civilization from prehistory to modern times. Among these objects are: examples of the first use of fire in a communal setting; the first tools used by man; the first examples of Homo Sapiens and Neanderthal life forms; the material depiction of gods and leaders; the earliest evidence of writing and numerals; examples of the early practice of law; the first coins; and the invention of printing, concluding with the manuscript for Albert Einstein's *Special Theory of Relativity*. These works are amplified by related works of contemporary art and objects from across the history of material culture. All together, these holdings underscore the universal character of the Museum's collections.



*Zadok Ben-David, Evolution and Theory, 1998*

*Curated by Tania Coen-Uzzielli, Head of Curatorial Affairs; and Efrat Klein, Associate Curator.*

***Happy Birthday and 50 x 50***  
**May 11, 2015 – May 10, 2016**

The Ruth Youth Wing for Art Education opens its annual exhibition on the Museum's actual birthday with an installation devoted to artistic depictions of birthday celebrations. The exhibition features works of contemporary art, both from the Museum's collections and on loan, and includes site-specific commissions by contemporary artists in Israel. A companion exhibition, *50 x 50*, features miniature diorama-style presentations of the Youth Wing's 50-year history of annual exhibitions.

*Happy Birthday is curated by Orna Granot, Associate Curator of the Library for Illustrated Children's Books. 50 x 50 is curated by Guest Curator Ido Bruno.*



*Mishneh Torah, Volume Two, Book of Judges*  
 photo © The Israel Museum, Jerusalem,  
 for Michael and Judy Steinhardt,  
 by Ardon Bar-Hama

***Together Again: Renaissance Mishneh Torah from the Vatican Library, Rome, and The Israel Museum, Jerusalem***  
**May 20 – September 20, 2015**

For the first time in nearly 200 years, two halves of a rare late 15<sup>th</sup>-century illuminated manuscript of Maimonides' Mishneh Torah from Northern Italy will be brought together for public display. Originally conceived in two volumes, the book is considered to be one of the last great examples of manuscript illumination before the invention of the printed book. The Israel Museum acquired one volume of the manuscript together with the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2013; the other volume is on loan from the Vatican Library in tribute to the Museum's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.

*Curated by Daisy Raccach-Djivre, Chief Curator, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Wing for Jewish Art and Life*



*Ernst Kirchner, Potsdamer Platz 1914*

***Twilight over Berlin:***

***50 Masterworks from the Neue Nationalgalerie, 1906-1945***

**September 17, 2015 – January 30, 2016**

Anchoring the second half of the Museum's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, this exhibition features 50 masterworks that celebrate the avant-garde freedom that flourished in Germany in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The exhibition, which also marks 50 years of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany, features works by influential Expressionists such as Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Emil Nolde, and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, and by such Weimar-period innovators as Max Beckmann, Otto Dix, and George Grosz. The onset of the Nazi period in Germany triggered a worldwide diaspora of this creative culture, and the émigré artists who came to Palestine from Europe formed there the foundational vocabulary that would come to define Israel's modern visual culture.

*Curated by Dr. Adina Kamien-Kazhdan, David Rockefeller Curator, The Stella Fischbach Department of Modern Art.*

***From Berlin to Jerusalem:***

***Three Pioneers of Israeli Typography – Henri Friedlander, Franceska Baruch, and Moshe Spitzer***

**September 27 – December 26, 2015**

As a companion to *Twilight over Berlin*, this exhibition further explores the foundational German heritage of Israeli visual culture, focusing on the uniquely seminal influence of German designers on the graphic arts. The exhibition examines the history of Israeli typography through the work of three pioneering Israeli designers, each of whom migrated to Palestine after training in Germany in the 1920s and 1930s. The aesthetic consequences of this migration created a foundation for the typographic and graphic artistic culture of the new State of Israel—especially as designers sought to address the need to create a new printed language in modern Hebrew—while also reflecting the ideological foundations and cultural aspirations of the new society.

*Curated by Guest Curator Ada Wardi.*



*Government House, Jerusalem, 1933*

***Architecture in Palestine during the British Mandate (1917-1948)***

**November 2015 – March 2016**

Exploring another dimension of European modernist influence on the evolution of Israel's visual heritage, this exhibition examines the significant influence that early twentieth-century European modernism had on the architectural language of Palestine during the period of the British Mandate, which came to be known as White Architecture. *Architecture in Palestine* draws inspiration from the extensive research of Israel Prize winning architect Ada Karmi-Melamede, and architect Dan Price, whose book 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 defined the qualities of its new language. The exhibition features documentary, analytical, and interpretive drawings 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 period.



Man Ray, *Untitled (A l'Heure de l'Observatoire—les Amoureux with Chess Set and Plaster Casts)*. 1934

### ***Man Ray: Human Equations***

**October 20, 2015 – January 23, 2016**

This exhibition focuses on Man Ray's preoccupation with the intersection of art and science, through photographs, paintings, and objects illustrating the artist's proclivity to create art across media that objectifies the body and humanizes the object, transforming everyday objects into novel forms of creative expression. Working in Hollywood in the late 1940s, Man Ray created a series of paintings inspired by photographs of 19<sup>th</sup>-century mathematical models he had made a decade earlier. Organized in conjunction with the Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.,

*Human Equations* displays for the first time these three bodies of work—the original models in plaster, wood, papier-mâché, and string from the Institut Henri Poincaré (IHP) in Paris; Man Ray's inventive photographs; and the series of paintings he subsequently created called *Shakespearean Equations*—alongside other objects from the Israel Museum's collection. The Museum owns over 100 examples of Man Ray's work, 25 of which are showcased in the exhibition, underscoring its central engagement with modernism across the field of art history as it is practiced worldwide today.

*Curated for the Israel Museum by Dr. Adina Kamien-Kazhdan, David Rockefeller Curator, The Stella Fischbach Department of Modern Art.*