

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

James S. Snyder
Anne and Jerome Fisher Director



7 January 2016

German Friends of the Israel Museum
c/o Mrs. Sonja Lahnstein, Chairwoman
Halenseestrasse 1
10711 Berlin
Germany

Via e-mail: Lahnstein.Sonja@step21.de
info@imj-germany.de
backhaus.imj@step21.de

Dear German Friends:

Our 50th Anniversary year has surely been a remarkable time for us – from our Birthday Party in May, to our 2015 International Council in June, to our 50th Anniversary festival season in August, and to the final exhibition season of our Anniversary year this fall, exploring the avant-garde in early 20th Century European Art that became the foundational spirit for modernism in Israel and for the Museum itself. Nothing offers a better demonstration of our success in taking our place on the landscape of the world's great museums. And, given the challenges in the region around us and throughout the world just now, there could be no greater testimony to the meaning of the Museum as an important custodian of the world's cultural heritage – and from a place as central to that heritage as Jerusalem.

Our relationship with Germany and with our German Friends could not be more relevant than it is today. Many of you joined us to open our 'German Season' in October and saw our galleries showcasing amazing works by avant-garde German artists of the early 20th century, as well as exploring the German influence on Israel's founding graphic and typographic aesthetics. In celebration of fifty years of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany, your support for the catalogue of *Twilight over Berlin* held great meaning and, of course, your continuing tradition of support for our Jewish-Arab education program, *Bridging the Gap* could not carry more significance in light of the geopolitical complexities of the times, both here in our region and worldwide.

As we begin our 51st (!) year and our second half-century, we simply wanted express our greatest thanks for all that you do to support our Museum and for your very special involvement in our 2015 celebrations. We look forward to seeing you at international events throughout the months ahead, and most especially at our upcoming International Council on June 5-8, 2016.

With greatest thanks and all warmest New Year's wishes,

p.o.b. 71117, jerusalem 9171002
tel. 972-2-670-8801, fax 972-2-670-8080
jsnyder@imj.org.il