

## News Release

Press Office

T 212.423.3271

F 212.423.3232

### Israeli Video Art Presentation in August 2014 Part of *Sights and Sounds: Global Film and Video Series* at the Jewish Museum

Jewish Museum

New York, NY – As part of an exhibition series highlighting contemporary film and video work from around the world, the Jewish Museum is presenting a selection of four films by Israeli artists from August 1 – 28. Video art is a dominant medium among artists in Israel who came of age in the 1990s when hi-tech culture and exposure to international news and pop culture via television were increasing. The works in *Sights and Sounds: Israel* contain motifs of transformation and metamorphosis, exploring the intersection of the personal and political within society.

Guy Ben Ner's *Spies* (2011) refers to the biblical story of the twelve spies who were sent to scout the Land of Canaan, returning with a bunch of grapes so large two men had to carry it. An image of this is now used as the logo of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism. The video zooms out from this logo while a voiceover recounts part of Samuel Beckett's absurdist play *Waiting for Godot* and Jonathan Swift's parodic novel *Gulliver's Travels*. Mika Rottenberg's *Sneeze* (2012) features suited men with grotesquely exaggerated and inflamed noses, who cartoonishly sneeze out rabbits, raw steaks, and finally light bulbs. The video is inspired by Thomas Edison's 1894 motion study of a sneeze that was one of the first films ever made. Gilad Ratman also uses cinematic tricks in his video *The Days of the Family of the Bell* (2012) to create the illusion of gravity-defying human pyramids, alluding to family trees, the importance of achieving balance within a social structure, and our interconnectedness with one another. Finally, Tali Keren's *Autobody* (2009) features a surreal, staged scene of Israeli and Palestinian car mechanics.

The presentation was curated by Chen Tamir (b. Tel Aviv, 1979), curator of the Center for Contemporary Art in Tel Aviv and associate director of Artis. She was previously executive director of Flux Factory, New York. She holds a Master's degree from the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, and has organized shows across Canada, the United States, and Israel.

Over the course of two years, *Sights and Sounds: Global Film and Video* is exploring new works selected by twenty-five curators from different countries, introducing New York audiences to the latest developments in filmmaking within the art context worldwide. Each curator has chosen new film and video works from their respective regions – including Argentina, Vietnam, Nigeria, New Zealand, Egypt, and others. Their selections are screened for one month each in the Museum's newly refurbished media center, which has been transformed into a miniature cinema. The works in *Sights and Sounds* touch on themes significant to both Jewish culture and universal human experience, including spirituality, exile, language, conflict, family, humor, and history. The *Sights and Sounds* exhibition series will culminate in a 2016 conference and a publication with curatorial statements, essays, film stills and descriptions.

*Sights and Sounds: Global Film and Video* is organized by Jens Hoffmann, Deputy Director, Exhibitions and Public Programs, and Rebecca Shaykin, Leon Levy Assistant Curator.

The Jewish Museum  
1109 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10128  
[TheJewishMuseum.org](http://TheJewishMuseum.org)

Under the auspices of  
The Jewish Theological Seminary

### **About the Jewish Museum**

Located on Museum Mile at Fifth Avenue and 92nd Street, the Jewish Museum is one of the world's preeminent institutions devoted to exploring art and Jewish culture from ancient to contemporary, offering intellectually engaging, educational, and provocative exhibitions and programs for people of all ages and backgrounds. The Museum was established in 1904, when Judge Mayer Sulzberger donated 26 ceremonial objects to The Jewish Theological Seminary as the core of a museum collection. Today, the Museum maintains a collection of over 30,000 works of art, artifacts, and broadcast media reflecting global Jewish identity, and presents a diverse schedule of internationally acclaimed temporary exhibitions.

The Jewish Museum is located at 1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street, New York City. Museum hours are Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, 11am to 5:45pm; Thursday, 11am to 8pm; and Friday, 11am to 4pm. Museum admission is \$15.00 for adults, \$12.00 for senior citizens, \$7.50 for students, free for visitors 18 and under and Jewish Museum members. Admission is Pay What You Wish on Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm and free on Saturdays. For information on the Jewish Museum, the public may call 212.423.3200 or visit the website at [TheJewishMuseum.org](http://TheJewishMuseum.org).

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Press contacts:

Anne Scher, Molly Kurzius, or Alex Wittenberg  
The Jewish Museum  
212.423.3271 or [pressoffice@thejm.org](mailto:pressoffice@thejm.org)

