



For Immediate Release

Jerusalem

Biennale2015

7,567mi, Los Angeles to Jerusalem is part of the **2nd Jerusalem Biennale for Contemporary Jewish Art**, and features the work of 39 members of the Jewish Artists Initiative in four venues. Rami Ozeri, Jerusalem Biennale Founder stated, "The Jewish Artists Initiative of Southern California which will also host three exhibitions in LA in conjunction with Biennale2015, representing the first time the Jerusalem Biennale extends its reach overseas." The venues include the one in Jerusalem and the following in Los Angeles: the American Jewish University, Platt/Borstein Galleries along with Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion and USC Hillel. **7,567mi** is one of only two exhibits selected to represent the United States at the Biennale2015. The exhibit at AJU runs from October 7- December 20, 2015. HUC-JIR, LA runs September 14- December 31, 2015 and USC Hillel opened August 24, 2015 and continues until December 4, 2015. The Jerusalem exhibit will run from September 24 to November 5, 2015.

The exhibit at **7,567mi** explores with all the exhibits in the Biennale, the places where contemporary art meet the Jewish world of content, and presents an interpretation of contemporary Jewish art as seen through the eyes of the members of the Jewish Artists Initiative. The JAI exhibit specifically looks at the physical, spiritual, and cultural connections between Los Angeles and Jerusalem. Despite the 7,567 miles that separate our two cities we share a great deal in common. Each is, in its own way, a promised land that beckons people to come with the possibility of dreams realized, prayers answered, and opportunities for new beginnings. The exhibit is co-curated by Georgia Freedman-Harvey, Platt/Borstein Curator at American Jewish University, and Anne Hromadka, Curator at HUC-JIR, Los Angeles.

For this exhibition the members of JAI were asked to answer the question, and create new artworks in response. The works selected represent the diversity of styles, media and life experiences that define and inform the art featured at all the exhibit sites. JAI artists often deal directly with Jewish subject matters. However, the artwork extends beyond stylized works with traditional cultural motifs and reference points. Rather, they have applied their contemporary interpretations to key Jewish or Israeli historical, political, or social events. All of the works are very personal narratives of what draws us east, as well as the compelling issues that Israel raises for the members of JAI, and create new artworks in response.

“What does it mean to be Jewish in Los Angeles in the 21st century?”

The artists being featured in the exhibitions are: **Melinda Smith Altshuler, Renee Amitai, Bill Aron, Pat Berger, Isaac Brynjugard-Bialik, Ellen Cantor, Rhea Carmi, Miri Chais, Judy Dekel, Yaron Dotan, Jean Edelstein, Sam Erenberg, Carol Es, Benny Ferdman, Karen Frimkess Wolff, Simone Gad, Shelley Gazin, Susan Gesundheit, Carol Goldmark, Betty Green, Gilah Yelin Hirsch, Nancy Goodman Lawrence, Sarah Horwitz, Eva Hyam, Karen Koblitz, Sandra Lauterbach, Soraya Sarah Nazarian, Laurel Paley, Alain Rogier, Avi Roth, Lidia Shaddow, Doni Silver Simons, Hillel Smith, Debra Sokolow, Erella Teitler, Ruth Weisberg, Cathy Weiss, Harriet Zeitlin, Jana Zimmer.**

Each institution will host a reception. (Contact each venue for specific date and time.) On Sunday, December 13th American Jewish University will host a joint panel featuring the curators and artists from all four venues, and the curators will present about the Biennale2015.

All events are free and open to the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:

BIENNALE – WWW.JERUSALEMBIENNALE.ORG

JAI– WWW.JAISOCAL.ORG

AJU – WWW.AJU.EDU

HUC -JIR,LA – WWW.HUC.EDU

USC HILLEL -- WWW.USCHILLEL.ORG



About the Biennale2015:

The 2nd Jerusalem Biennale for Contemporary Jewish Art (September 24 - November 5) will showcase the work of nearly 200 Israeli and international artists in 10 exhibitions hosted in seven city-center venues. Biennale2015 hosts four exhibitions from overseas - New York, Los Angeles, Buenos Aires and Barcelona. The vision of the Biennale is to create the right conditions for the artists to display their work in Jerusalem, engage in the current discourse about the Jewish world, and help establish Jerusalem as the global center for contemporary Jewish Art.

About JAI:

JAI is a membership organization made up of over 85 Jewish artists and curators who are committed to fostering visual art and promoting dialogue about Jewish identity and related issues among members of the arts community.

WWW.JAISOCAL.ORG // CONTACT: INFO@JAISOCAL.ORG