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מוזיאון ישראל, ירושלים  
the israel museum, jerusalem  
متحف اسرئيل، اورشليم القدس

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## About The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

The Israel Museum is the largest the State of Israel and is ranked leading art and archaeology museums. Museum houses encyclopedic works dating from prehistory to the Archaeology, Fine Arts, and Jewish and features the most extensive and Holy Land archaeology in the five years, thanks to a legacy of gifts from its circle of patrons worldwide,

Northeastern view of the Museum. (c) Tim Hursley.



a far-ranging collection of nearly 500,000 objects, representing the full scope of world material culture.

cultural institution in among the world's Founded in 1965, the collections, including present day, in its Art and Life Wings, holdings of biblical world. In just forty-and generous support the Museum has built

In the summer of 2010, the Israel Museum completed the most comprehensive upgrade of its 20-acre campus in its history, featuring new galleries, entrance facilities, and public spaces. The three-year expansion and renewal project was designed to enhance visitor experience of the Museum's collections, architecture, and surrounding landscape, complementing its original design by Alfred Mansfeld and Dora Gad. Led by James Carpenter Design Associates of New York and Efrat-Kowalsky Architects of Tel Aviv, the project also included the complete renewal and reconfiguration of the Museum's Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Archaeology Wing, Edmond and Lily Safra Fine Arts Wing, and Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Wing for Jewish Art and Life.

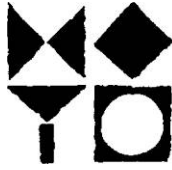
Among the highlights of the Museum's original campus is the Shrine of the Book, designed by Armand Bartos and Frederick Kiesler, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest biblical manuscripts in the world, as well as rare early medieval biblical manuscripts. Adjacent to the Shrine is the Model of Jerusalem in the Second Temple Period, which reconstructs the topography and architectural character of the city as it was prior to its destruction by the Romans in 66 CE, and provides historical context to the Shrine's presentation of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The Museum's celebrated Billy Rose Art Garden, designed for the original campus by Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi, is counted among the finest outdoor sculpture settings of the 20th century. An Oriental landscape combined with an ancient Jerusalem hillside, the garden serves as the backdrop for the Israel Museum's display of the evolution of the modern western sculptural tradition. On view are works by modern masters including Jacques Lipchitz, Henry Moore, Claes Oldenburg, Pablo Picasso, Auguste Rodin, and David Smith, together with more recent site-specific commissions by such artists as Magdalena Abakanowicz, Mark Dion, James Turrell, and Micha Ullman.

The Ruth Youth Wing for Art Education, unique in its size and scope of activities, presents a wide range of programming to more than 100,000 schoolchildren each year, and features exhibition galleries, art studios, classrooms, a library of illustrated children's books, and a recycling room. Special programs foster intercultural understanding between Arab and Jewish students and reach out to the wide spectrum of Israel's communities.

In addition to the extensive programming offered on its main campus, the Israel Museum also operates two off-site locations: the Rockefeller Archaeological Museum, an architectural gem built in 1938 for the

display of archaeology from ancient Israel; and Ticho House, which offers an ongoing program of exhibitions by younger Israeli artists in a historic house and garden setting.



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## Renewed Collection Wings

An integral component of the Israel Museum's campus renewal project is the complete reconstruction and reinstallation of its three collection wings for archaeology, the fine arts, and Jewish art and life, each now centrally accessible through the new gallery entrance pavilion. Merging the Museum's new curatorial vision together with innovative installation design, the renewed galleries enable visitors to navigate intuitively through the Museum's encyclopedic collections, following the timeline of material culture from prehistory in the ancient Near East to contemporary art worldwide.

### Samuel and Saidye Bronfman Archaeology Wing



The renewed entrance gallery to Bronfman Archaeology Wing. (c) Tim Hursley.

The Archaeology Wing tells the story of the ancient Land of Israel – home to peoples of different cultures and faiths – using unique examples from the Museum's collection of Holy Land archaeology, the foremost holding in the world. Organized chronologically, from prehistory through the Ottoman Empire, the transformed wing presents seven "chapters" of this archaeological narrative, weaving together momentous historical events, cultural achievements, and technological advances, while providing a glimpse into the everyday lives of the peoples of the region. This narrative is supplemented by thematic groupings highlighting aspects of ancient Israeli archaeology that are unique to the region's history, among them Hebrew writing, glass, and coins. Treasures from neighboring cultures that have had a decisive

impact on the Land of Israel – such as Egypt, the Near East, Greece and Italy, and the Islamic world – are on view in adjacent and connecting galleries. A special gallery at the entrance to the wing showcases new findings and other temporary exhibition displays.

Highlights on view include:

- **"House of David" inscription (9th century BCE)**, part of a monumental stele commemorating the military victories of Hazael, King of Aram. This inscription is the earliest source of archaeological evidence for the Davidic dynasty in the Land of Israel.
- **A comparative display of two shrines (8th–7th century BCE)**, one Judahite, devoid of human images, as proscribed in the Bible, and the other Edomite, rich in human images, representing gifts to the shrine by the worshippers.
- **The Heliodorus Stele (178 BCE)**, incised in Greek on stone, this inscription provides new insight into the dramatic story of Heliodorus in the Temple of Jerusalem and the events that led to the Hasmonean/Maccabean revolt, as recounted in the Second Book of Maccabees. Since its first display at the Israel Museum in June 2007, additional fragments of the stele have been discovered and are now presented together for the first time in 2,200 years.

- **Royal Herodian bathhouse (1st century BCE)**, reconstructed with the pillars, frescos, mosaics and tiles excavated from Herod's palace at Herodion. The bathhouse, lavishly decorated and built with the latest Roman technology, includes a raised mosaic floor and earthenware piping built into its walls to provide heating for the entire room.
- **Hadrian's Triumph: Inscription from a triumphal arch (136 CE)**, honoring the emperor Hadrian and presumed to commemorate the suppression of the Bar Kokhba Revolt. The Latin inscription, discovered in Tel Shalem, is the largest ever found in Israel and is on display for the first time.
- **Gold-glass bases from the Roman Catacombs (4th century CE)**, rare ancient medallions decorated with traditional Jewish motifs, which represent the earliest known depictions of Jewish symbols from the Second Temple to appear in the Western Diaspora.
- **Reconstruction of synagogue and church *bemas* (4th–7th century CE)**, an impressive new installation comparing the architectural elements of contemporaneous Christian and Jewish houses of prayer. This installation presents a synagogue *bema* (chancel) from Susiya and a church *bema* with elements from seventeen different churches.
- **Wall painting from the Abbey of the Virgin Mary in the Valley of Jehosaphat, (12th century CE)**, discovered during a salvage excavation of Mary's Tomb, next to Gethsemane. This rare Crusader-period fresco was a highlight of the Abbey, which was destroyed centuries ago, and is on display for the first time.
- ***Mihrab* from Isfahan, Iran (17th–18th century)**, newly installed in the Wing's gallery for Islamic art, incorporates elaborate mosaic tiles and Qur'anic verses. The *mihrab*, a niche in the center of the wall facing Mecca, is the most highly ornamented area in the mosque.

The curatorial team of the Bronfman Archaeology Wing is led by Michal Dayagi-Mendels, Tamar and Teddy Kollek Chief Curator of Archaeology. Pentagram Design, London, designed the new galleries.

### **Edmond and Lily Safra Fine Arts Wing**



The new galleries for Israeli art in the Fine Arts Wing.  
(c) Tim Hursley.

The Fine Arts Wing reflects the wide-ranging, interdisciplinary nature of the Museum's collections, encompassing works of art from across the ages in Western and non-Western cultures. The wing has been reorganized to highlight connections among works from its diverse curatorial collections, which include: European Art; Modern Art; Contemporary Art; Israeli Art; the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas; Asian Art; Photography; Design and Architecture; and Prints and Drawings. Installations are organized to underscore visual affinities and shared themes and to inspire new insight into the arts of different times and places, as well as an appreciation of the common threads of human culture. The reconfigured wing includes the Museum's first permanent galleries for Israeli art; more than

doubled gallery space for the Museum's extensive collections in modern art; providing meaningful connecting points between Western and non-Western holdings; and a full 2,200-square-meter (7,200-square-foot) gallery floor devoted to changing displays from the Museum's collection of contemporary art.

Highlights newly on view include:

- **The Noel and Harriette Levine Photography Collection**, comprising some 125 works spanning over 170 years of the history of the medium, is shown in its first public display since it was gifted to the Museum in 2008.

- **The Jacques Lipchitz Collection**, in a unique *kunstkammer*-like display, includes thousands of artifacts from Africa, Oceania, the Americas, Asia, medieval Europe, and the ancient world. The objects, assembled by Lipchitz throughout his lifetime, are presented for the first time in the Modern Art galleries, together with works by the sculptor which they inspired.
- **Gustave Courbet, *Jura Landscape with Shepherd and Donkey* (ca. 1866)**, depicting Courbet's famous donkey, Gérôme, in the "Free Country" region frequently depicted by the artist.
- **Alberto Giacometti, *Diego in the Studio* (1952)**, a melancholic portrait of the artist's brother, and the first painting by this influential 20th-century painter and sculptor to enter the Museum's collection, on display for the first time.
- **Ohad Meromi, *The Boy from South Tel Aviv* (2001)**, a colossal sculpture of an adolescent African boy, which communicates the dissonances between the demeaning poverty of refugee life and the majesty of the scale of the work, against the calm backdrop of the museum as a cultural sanctuary. This 2008 acquisition is displayed in the Museum's renewed Upper Entrance Hall.
- **Carlos Amorales, *Black Cloud, (latent studio)* (2007)**, a monumental installation of 15,000 black paper moths. This work, acquired in 2009, is on view for the first time in the inaugural contemporary art exhibition *Still / Moving*.
- **Cup in the form of a boy clinging to a lotus stalk, China (17th century)**, carved from a rhinoceros horn, is one of the most important and beautiful objects of its kind in the world. The rhinoceros, now extinct in China, was treasured for its horn, and cups made from this material were believed to neutralize poison.
- **Leopard head hip mask from Benin Kingdom, Nigeria (17th century)**, a rare pendant worn by high-ranking officials on their left hip, under a scabbard or sword. Donated to the Museum in honor of the inauguration of its renewed galleries, the mask is expertly cast in brass with copper studs inserted through an intricate process that testifies to its authenticity.

The curatorial team of the Edmond and Lily Safra Fine Arts Wing is led by Suzanne Landau, Yulla and Jacques Lipchitz Chief Curator of Fine Arts. Studio de Lange Design, Tel Aviv, oversaw the re-design of the wing, with additional design support by Oren Sagiv and Halina Hamou.

### **Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Wing for Jewish Art and Life**



Renewed galleries in the Mandel Wing for Jewish Art and Life. (c) Tim Hursley.

The Wing for Jewish Art and Life presents the material culture of Jewish communities worldwide, from the Middle Ages to the present day, and is conceived to provide a view of Jewish life that integrates both its sacred and its secular dimensions. Showcasing the aesthetic value of objects as well as their social and historical significance, the comparative display unfolds in five themes that highlight the individual and the communal, the sacred and the mundane, and the heritage of the past, and the creative innovations of the present. The reconfigured wing includes a new Synagogue Route, unique to the Israel Museum, containing four synagogue interiors from the continents of Europe, Asia, and the Americas; a dramatic introductory display focusing on the Jewish life cycle that features singular treasures from the collections relating to the ritual ceremonies of birth, marriage, and death; a new gallery space to showcase the Museum's holdings of rare illuminated manuscripts; and the integration of works of contemporary art and Judaica.

Highlights on view include:

- **Maimonides' Mishne Torah (15th century)**, a rare copy of this monumental *halakhic* text from Northern Italy, featuring extraordinary examples of Renaissance illumination and previously unknown legal *responsa* and glosses. Recently deposited with the Museum on long-term loan and restored by the Museum, the work is presented for the first time in the new manuscripts gallery, alongside other rare treasures such as the 14th-century Nuremberg Mahzor and the 13th-century Spanish bible from Soria.
- **Zedek-ve-Shalom Synagogue (18th century)**, recently restored from the once-vibrant Jewish community of Suriname and displayed as an integral component of the new Synagogue Route, featuring three other complete synagogues from Germany, Italy, and India and including important ritual objects of 17th and 18th-century Dutch heritage from the same community.
- **The newly restored Fishach sukkah (19th century)**, originally built for a family home in Fischach, Germany, and meticulously painted with scenes of rural Germany and of Jerusalem. The recent restoration process exposed new and surprising details of the sukkah's history.
- **Burial society (*hevra kadisha*) carriage from Hungary (19th century)**, made of carved and painted wood, which served to carry the deceased in funeral processions. This majestic carriage exemplifies the central Jewish tradition of honoring the dead.
- **Ogadéro necklace and bracelets from Izmir, Turkey (late 19th century)**, a type of jewelry typically given to a bride by her husband or father, and often kept into adulthood as security in order to purchase a burial plot.
- **Man's hooded cape (*akhnif*) from the Atlas Mountains (late 19th–early 20th centuries)**, a standard garment worn by both Muslims and Jews. Unique to the collection, the cape was typically black with an intricate woven pattern on the back. Jews were required to wear the garment inside-out to signal their religion, in accordance with local law, and could only expose the stunning pattern by rolling up their sleeves.
- **Bezalel Arts and Crafts from the Alan and Riva Slifka Collection (early 20th century)**, created by artists working in Jerusalem during the first Bezalel period. Objects from the collection, such as Hanukkah lamps and jewelry, are integrated throughout the galleries. A standalone installation of key works is displayed at the junction of the Wing for Jewish Art and Life and the Fine Arts Wing, underscoring the critical connection of this art historical moment with its roots in 19th-century European Art and the Jewish cultural imagery that would provide the inspiration for Israeli Art in the early 20th century.
- **Display of 120 Hanukkah lamps from 15 countries**, in a new installation that evokes the windows in which the lamps are traditionally lit during the Hanukkah holiday. The Museum's collection of Hanukkah lamps is the most comprehensive in the world, and many are on view for the first time.

The curatorial team of the Mandel Wing for Jewish Art and Life is led by Daisy Raccach-Djivre, Chief Curator of Jewish Art and Life. Studio de Lange Design, Tel Aviv, oversaw the re-design of the wing.