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NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART COMMEMORATES STATE OF ISRAEL'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY WITH AN EXHIBITION BY TWO ISRAELI ARTISTS, AND A SHABBAT DINNER

Works by Israeli women artists Michal Rovner and Tal Shochat will be on view April 13 – October 7, 2018, at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno. A Shabbat Dinner, featuring the Director Emeritus of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem on April 13, will be complemented by additional community events.



Reno, Nev. (March 28, 2018) – This year the State of Israel marks seventy years since its founding by the United Nations following World War II. For this occasion, the Nevada Museum of Art presents exhibitions by Israeli women artists Michal Rovner and Tal Shochat. These contemporary artists create work that is grounded in the history of photography, while delivering a fresh and independent viewpoint to the dialogue surrounding art and environment. *Celebrating Israel's 70th Anniversary: Michal Rovner and Tal Shochat* will be on view April 13 through October 7, at the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery in downtown Reno, Nevada. A suite of community events, including a Shabbat dinner at the Museum, will commence the exhibition.

In spring 2015, the Nevada Museum of Art partnered with Reno-based cultural leaders John and Catherine Farahi to organize a trip to Israel that combined historical and cultural site visits with museum tours and stops at artists' studios. Two of the contemporary artists that the group encountered—established sculptor and video artist Michal Rovner, and mid-career photographer Tal Shochat—resonated with the group.

Michal Rovner creates evocative works touching on timeless themes of humanity and the human figure in the landscape. Rovner creates her videos by first filming actors who enact sequenced movements. Little by little through the editorial process, she removes all traces of individual identity so all that remains is a broad focus on humanity's entirety.

Gardens and trees are a recurring theme in Tal Shochat's work, alluding to the Garden of Eden as well as to Tu BiShvat or "New Year of the Trees," a holiday on the Jewish calendar which is also celebrated among secular Israelis as a day of ecological awareness. Shochat focuses on the resilient fruit trees grown on land that farmers have cultivated in the same manner for 400 years.

These artists' work is being presented together in a joint exhibition commemorating Israel's 70th anniversary. *Celebrating Israel's 70th Anniversary: Michal Rovner and Tal Shochat* presents photographs and multimedia artworks that illustrate contemporary life in Israel.

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To honor these extraordinary artists, the Nevada Museum of Art will host an exclusive dinner in the tradition of Shabbat, or the Jewish day of rest, on Friday, April 13. Guests will light candles, sip ceremonial Kiddush wine, and break challah bread before the meal. Prepared by Mark Estee, this dinner features recipes by James Beard Award-winning Chef Michael Solomonov. The evening includes a presentation by guest speaker James S. Snyder, Director Emeritus of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Additional special guests include artist Tal Shochat. For more information visit [the event page on the Museum's website](#). Dinner tickets can be purchased through this link: <http://bit.ly/CelebratingIsrael70>

Celebrating Israel's 70th Anniversary: Michal Rovner and Tal Shochat will be on view April 13 through October 7, 2018, at the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery located at 160 West Liberty Street in Reno, Nevada.

Celebrating Israel's 70th Anniversary: Michal Rovner and Tal Shochat was made possible by the generosity of these sponsors: **Lead Sponsor:** Atlantis Casino Resort Spa | Catherine and John Farahi. **Major Sponsor:** John and Carol Ann Badwick. **Sponsor:** Susan Baker, Wawona Foundation; Crystal Family Foundation. **Supporting Sponsor:** Nancy Flanigan; Heidi Allyn Loeb; Mary Catherine and Ken Pierson; Sandy Raffealli | Bill Pearce Motors; Suzanne Silverman and Dennis Dworkin. **Additional Support:** Iris and Mark Frank; Mimi Ellis-Hogan; Sharon and Gary Jacobson; Hy Kashenberg; Gary Lieberthal; Cary Lurie; Nancy and Alan Maiss; Jacob Margolis; Leslie and Steve Pansky; Joan and Michael Pokroy; Jean Venneman and YaYa Jacoby; Darby and David Walker.

A full list of the community events celebrating Israel's 70th anniversary include:

DR. SHALOM M. PAUL ON THE "EVER-ALIVE DEAD SEA SCROLLS"

Thursday, April 12 | 7 PM

William Raggio Building Room 2030

University of Nevada, Reno

Professor (Emeritus) Shalom M. Paul was ordained as a rabbi in 1962. He has published over 70 articles in Biblical exegesis and Ancient Near Eastern literature as well as seven books. Paul will discuss the nature of the find in 11 caves of Qumran starting from 1947 and which Jewish sect wrote them and discuss the importance of the discovery for the development of the Hebrew Bible.

FREE and open to the public

SHABBAT DINNER AND TALK ON CREATIVITY IN ISRAEL BY JAMES S. SNYDER

Friday, April 13 / 6 PM

Nevada Museum of Art

Join the Museum for a special celebration of Israel's 70th Anniversary with a Shabbat dinner. Guests will light candles, sip ceremonial Kiddush wine, and break challah bread before enjoying their meal. The evening includes a presentation by guest speaker James S. Snyder, Director Emeritus of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. Additional special guests include artist Tal Shochat. Seating is limited.

\$150 per person

ISRAEL @70 CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 14 / 6:30 PM

Atlantis Grand Ballroom

Join the Atlantis as they commemorate Israel's 70th anniversary with a special birthday party. Celebrate Simcha style with a live Israeli band, buffet, children's activities and more.

\$36 in advance | \$42 at the door | \$18 for students | \$10 for children ages 7-13 | FREE for children under 6

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The Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery is the only art museum in Nevada accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). A private, nonprofit organization founded in 1931, the Reno-based institution is supported by its membership as well as sponsorships, gifts and grants. Through its permanent collections, original exhibitions and programming, and E.L. Cord Museum School, the Nevada Museum of Art provides meaningful opportunities for people to engage with a range of art and education experiences. The Museum's **Center for Art + Environment** is an internationally-recognized research center dedicated to supporting the practice, study, and awareness of creative interactions between people and their environments. The Center houses unique archive materials from more than 1,000 artists working on all seven continents, including Cape Farewell, Michael Heizer, Walter de Maria, Lita Albuquerque, Burning Man, the Center for Land Use Interpretation, Ugo Rondinone, and Trevor Paglen. Learn more at nevadaart.org.

Header Image Captions: Michal Rovner, *Untitled 7 (Panorama)*, 2015, LCD screen, paper and video, 23-1/4" x 40-13/16" x 2-9/16 inches single screen. Courtesy of the artist and Pace Gallery; Tal Shochat, *Cherry Tree (Spring)* from triptych, 2017, C-Print. © Tal Shochat. Photograph courtesy of the artist and Meislin Projects, New York.