

PRESS RELEASE

Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art is proud to announce “Keshet Award for Contemporary Art”

Keshet Award was founded by Bar-Gil Avidan Family

First Winner of Keshet Award for 2016 – artist Guy Goldstein

Keshet Award aims to expand and extend the support of Contemporary Israeli art through a significant dialogue between a promising Israeli artist (up to 45 years old) and a noteworthy international curator that will lead to a solo exhibition at the Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art accompanied by a catalogue.

Keshet Award is donating one million shekels (approximately \$260,000) for the support of a solo exhibition every two years for a total period of ten years, while each exhibition is to be accompanied by a catalogue.

A committee of 5 judges selected the ten shortlisted artists. The committee includes **Mrs. Keren Bar-Gil**, founder and donor of the award, curator **Yona Fischer**, artist and Prof. **Itzhak Livne**, artist **Zoya Cherkassky** and curator-researcher Dr. **Yael Gilat**. Dr. Aya Lurie the director and chief curator of the Herzliya Museum serves as chairwoman of the committee and fellow curator of the exhibition.

Louis Grachos, executive director of The Contemporary Austin museum in Austin, Texas, is Keshet Award’s first guest-curator. Grachos recently visited Israel on an intense research trip and have met with the ten artists. Upon visiting few of them for a second round he selected **Guy Goldstein** and his proposed project as the winner of Keshet Award. Grachos is interested in exploring and revisiting Guy’s multimedia abilities as a sound and installation artist and his preoccupation with issues of politics, culture, identity and history.

Keshet Award is an exceptional opportunity for the artist to personally work with an international curator. The first award exhibition, to be curated by **Louis Grachos**, is to open at the Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art in September 2017. The Contemporary Austin museum will exhibit this show in one of its central halls during 2018.

Winning artist – Guy Goldstein

Born in Israel in 1974, lives and works in Tel Aviv. Hold MFA from Bezalel Academy of Arts and BA from Vizo Academy in Haifa. Known as a sound and installation artist who creates a unique language that translates visual image into sound and vice versa by using advanced technologies.

Guest-curator – Louis Grachos

Holds an experience of 30 years in the Modern and Contemporary Art field, including extensive curatorial and managerial experience. Has curated exhibitions of well-known artists such as Francis Bacon, Chuck Close, Sol LeWitt, Clyfford Still and contemporary artists such as Monika Sosnovska, Jim Hodges, Ryan Gander and many others. Serves as the executive director of The Contemporary Austin museum in Austin, Texas, for the past three years, and has led to its major renovation and expansion. Previously he directed the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo New York and the prestigious museum SITE Sante Fe in New Mexico. This is his first visit to Israel and we welcome this fruitful collaboration.

Award Founder and donor – Keren Bar-Gil

Independent curator and an art consultant. Holds BA in law from the Tel Aviv University and BA in arts history from Courtauld Institute of Art in London. Since her return to Israel a decade ago she has been active in the Israeli art field working with both established and emerging artists. She developed an alternative model for commercial galleries by holding exhibitions at her own house for esteemed Contemporary Israeli Art.

The Contemporary Austin museum

The museum holds two distinctive sites with three different exhibitions platforms; Jones Center in downtown Austin with a contemporary art space set in an urban environment, Laguna Gloria, a fourteen-acre site on Lake Austin including a 19th century villa and a significant sculpture park. The Contemporary Austin holds an extensive program of temporary and permanent exhibitions by major international artists, diverse programming involving the community and cultural activities. <http://www.thecontemporaryaustin.org/>

The Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art

The museum is a leading institution of Contemporary Art in Israel and its reputation spreads well beyond Israel's national borders. The exhibitions and artistic events which have taken place at the Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art throughout the years have attracted massive amounts of visitors, raised public debates concerning important topics and have proven time and again the importance of the museum through its contribution to the local and international artistic scene. <http://www.herzliyamuseum.co.il/english/homepage>