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Traveling Video Archive Makes First U.S. Stop at Art in General

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Mobile Archive

Opening Reception Thursday, September 24, 2009 from 6-9 pm

From September 24 to October 17, 2009, Art in General will present the North American debut of the Mobile Archive, an international collection of hundreds of video artworks assembled by the Israeli Center for Digital Art, Holon. The Mobile Archive has been traveling the world since its first stop at the Kunstverein in Hamburg in 2007 and includes artists such as Yael Bartana, Guy Ben-Ner, Candice Breitz, Jumana Emil Abboud, Köken Ergun, Mark Lewis, Avi Mograbi, Yoshua Okon, and Ruti Sela.

The exhibition will be presented in multiple formats: visitors will be able to select and watch any video from the archive in Art in General's Project Space; view specially curated screenings by independent curators Regine Basha, Adina Popescu, and Chen Tamir; and attend daily screenings of work by select artists from the archive. Visitors to the exhibition will also have the opportunity to nominate new artists for inclusion to this continually expanding resource. As each institution that has hosted the Mobile Archive has contributed new works, Art in General and the guest curators will similarly select and add up to 25 new artists to the archive, with special consideration of visitor-nominated works.

With to the goal of facilitating research and cultural exchange, much of the archive focuses on issues of identity, nationalism, and militarism. Works in the archive also offer alternative narratives to historical tropes of Israeli society. For example, videos by B'Tselem (The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories) present oft unseen documentation from Palestine, while filmmaker Avi Mograbi demands debate about the responsibility of soldiers in the IDF.

As Anne Barlow, Art in General's Executive Director states, "We are interested in how the Mobile Archive can be activated by the public as well as by the different curatorial perspectives that will be brought to it through the special screenings and addition of new artists. The public programs at Art in General and the Vera List Center for Art and Politics will also contribute valuable content to the ongoing exchange of ideas around the work of the artists represented."

In the past few years, the Israeli Center for Digital Art has worked to catalogue and transform its valuable archive into a convenient and dynamic viewing and research library, open to curators, artists, art students and teachers. Starting in Hamburg, the Mobile Archive has moved to a wide range of art institutions, including the WYSPA Institute of Art in Gdansk, Poland; Galerija Nova (of WHW) in Zagreb, Croatia; Skuc Gallery in Ljubljana, Slovenia; the Università luav di Venezia; Careof DOCVA Viafarini, Milan; and the Newberry Gallery at the Glasgow School of Art.

The *Mobile Archive* exhibition is organized by Art in General in collaboration with guest curator Chen Tamir.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Tuesday 15th September, 6.30pm-8.30pm

Vera List Center for Art and Politics

In conjunction with the North American debut of the Israeli Center for Digital Art's *Mobile Archive*, Art in General and the Vera List Center for Art and Politics will co-host a conversation between **Galit Eilat**, founding director of the Israeli Center for Digital Art and its video archive, and Ramallah-based curator and art historian, **Reem Fadda**.

Location: Vera List Center for Art and Politics, Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Auditorium, Sheila C. Johnson Design Center, 66 Fifth Avenue

Tuesday 6th October, 6.30-8.00pm

Art in General

Chen Tamir will lead a panel discussion with fellow guest screening curators Regine Basha and Adina Popescu about their approach to the archive and their selected film programs.

ABOUT THE ISRAELI CENTER FOR DIGITAL ART

The Israeli Center for Digital Art is a dynamic platform for thinking, researching, producing, presenting, and analyzing contemporary art, and seeks to provide a meeting point for exchange between contemporary artists, curators, critics and the public. Since it was established in 2001 in an abandoned school building in the industrial area of Holon, the Israeli Center for Digital Art has grown quickly from a one-room gallery. The center is a not-for-profit organization supported by the city of Holon. As a public art space it constantly questions the place of art and art institutions within their society. By expressing views that do not necessarily correlate in many cases with policies of the state, the definition of an art institute and a publicly financed art space are continually examined.

In an effort to stimulate discourse in Israeli society, the center devotes a significant part of its work on art projects that foster questions about identity, ethnicity, nationalism and cultural exchange. The center initiates partnerships and collaborations with contemporary artists, theorists, writers, curators, and other institutions in the Middle East and the Balkan region, to explore how creative communities from different peripheries of the world can connect, learn from each other, and break down nationalistic or regional barriers. The video archive focuses on art from Israel, the Middle East and the Balkans, creates an area for research and functions as a space for gathering valuable data and resources for contemporary art curators, writers, and theorists.

ABOUT ART IN GENERAL

Founded in 1981 in Lower Manhattan, Art in General is a nonprofit organization that assists artists with the production and presentation of new work. It changes in response to the needs of artists and engages the public with their work. Since it was established the organization has emerged as one of New York City's leading nonprofits devoted to supporting and stimulating the creation of contemporary art, providing an environment in which artists may exhibit unconventional work and exchange ideas with their peers.

Location: 79 Walker Street, NYC, at the southeast corner of Cortland Alley. One block south of Canal Street, between Lafayette and Broadway.

Subway directions: take the 6, A-C-E, N-Q-R-W, or J-M-Z to Canal Street.

Gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 pm.

Admission: Always free.

Art in General's 6th Floor Gallery and restrooms are wheelchair accessible, and we can provide assistance to visitors with disabilities as requested.

Support

General support of Art in General is provided by General Tools LLC; Abraham and Lillian Rosenberg Foundation; Starry Night Fund of Tides Foundation; New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency; Carnegie Corporation of New York; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Jerome Foundation; Miller-Sweezy Charitable Trust; Lily Auchincloss Foundation; Bloomberg; Cowles Charitable Trust; College Art Association; Foundation for Contemporary Arts; The Liman Foundation; and by individuals.

The *Mobile Archive* exhibition is made possible by Artis – Contemporary Israeli Art Fund, and the Office of Cultural Affairs, Consulate General of Israel in New York.



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