



## **Unlike Other Springs**

### **The Story of the Art Collection at Birzeit University Museum**

**March 19 - June 30, 2016**

**Curated by Vera Tamari**

#### **Press release**

Birzeit University Museum is organizing on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2016 an art exhibition entitled “Unlike Other Springs”, in commemoration of more than twenty years for the establishment of its art collection. The collection was gradually formed through generous contributions by visual artists and University friends from Palestine, the Arab countries and the world at large, who gave their works as gifts to the museum. The number of artworks in the collection today has exceeded 300 works representing modern and contemporary practices, including painting, multimedia, sculpture and video art.

The exhibition “Unlike Other Springs” sheds light on the genesis and evolution of the art collection, show casing the deep historical relationship between the University and the Palestinian and Arab artists as well as artists from various cultural backgrounds. The collection started in 1994 with the first donation to the Museum by Swiss artist René Feurer . By the year 2015 the following artists had also contributed their works to the Museum:

Marwan QassabBashi, Kamal Boullata, Etel Adnan, Laila Shawa, Samia Halaby, Vladimir Tamari, Mona Bassili Sehnaoui, Rachid Qurayshi, Ismail Shammout, Nasser Soumi, Sari Khoury, Samira Badran, Mona Hatoum, Mona Saudi, Vera Tamari, Maurice Pasternak, Mizuko Yakuwa, Jorge Shmeitzer, Guy Cobb, and Lois Nakhleh. .



A close relationship between the Museum and artists continues today, recently new art works were added to the collection with the generous contributions from 25 prominent Palestinian artists. These original new works have added a contemporary dimension to the art collection and diverse experiential and thematic representations. The added works convey interesting manifestations on the history of art production in the Palestinian context. The new contributions to the collection are from the following artists:

Sliman Mansur, Suha Shoman, Nabil Anani, Tayseer Barakat, Emily Jacir, Rula Halawani, Hosni Radwan, Taysir Batniji, Samir Salameh, Hani Zurob, Khaled Hourani, Jawad al Malhi, Jumana Manaa, Raeda Saadeh, Inass Yassin, Sharif Waked, Ahmad Kanaan, Khalil Rabah, Tayseer Sharaf, Yazan Al khalili, Amer Shomali, Omar Ivo Joseph Filivis Dinæ, Bashir Makhoul, and John Halaka.

Moreover, Palestinian researcher and collector George al Amaa Also offered two unique gifts to the collection, a painting on glass by Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, one of the main literary and art giants of Palestine and a landscape drawing by pioneer artist Sophie Halaby.

The exhibition has been conceived and curated by artist Vera Tamari. The works are distributed mainly in the gallery of the Birzeit University Museum museum and in smaller exhibitions on campus and outside.

A program of parallel activities including art workshops, seminars and lectures, meetings with artists and panel discussions is planned in order to deepen students' participation and disseminate knowledge about the various representations of art. The exhibition and its parallel activities echo the Museum's vision that of being an intellectual platform for active debate on contemporary art production and practices.

The activities connected with the exhibition are:

**Exhibition Opening:** Saturday, March 19, 2016 | 3:00 pm | Youssef Ahmad Ghanem library



**Exhibition tour :**  
Museum

| 3:30 pm | Birzeit University

### Parallel Activities:

- **Symposium:** “Art Collecting in the Palestinian Context”  
Saturday, March 26, 2016 | 10:00 am - 3:00 pm| Birzeit University Museum.
- Screening of new video art acquisitions in the Birzeit University Art Collection.  
March 2016/24 form, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

-Suha Shoman, “Bayyaratina”,2009

-Taysir Batniji, “Transit”, 2004

- Jumana Manna," A Sketch of Manners (Alfred Roch's Last Masquerade)",

2012

In The Virtual Realty Room, Engineering Building.  
2nd Floor.

- **Opening of Lois Nakhleh’s Exhibition:** “The Digital Myth of Palestinian Flora” and interventions on the same theme by BZU architecture students.  
Saturday, April 2, 2016- 16 April, 2016 |6:00 pm| Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center | Curators: Dr. Yazeed Anani and Dr. Samar al-Nazer.
- **Video Arts Screening Program: “Video Art Festival Re-visited”**  
From March 19- June 30, 2016 | Youssef Ahmad Al Ghanem Library-  
Birzeit University,  
Curator: Emily Jacir.

متحف جامعة بيرزيت، ص.ب14 بيرزيت، فلسطين. هاتف: 2982976 00 970 2

بريد إلكتروني: bzumuseum@birzeit.edu | الموقع الإلكتروني: www.museum.birzeit.edu