



מוזיאון ישראל, ירושלים
the israel museum, jerusalem
متحف إسرائيل، أورشليم القدس

**Institutions Worldwide Loan Masterworks
For a Series of Special Displays in Dialogue with Israel Museum Collections
in Honor of Museum's 50th Anniversary**

**Tribute Displays Spotlight Paintings by Kandinsky and Rembrandt, 2nd-Century Bronze Busts
of the Emperor Hadrian, and a Rare Illuminated Mishneh Torah Manuscript**

Jerusalem (May 27, 2015) — In honor of the Israel Museum's 50th anniversary, institutions from around the world—including the British Museum, the Louvre, Rijksmuseum, State Hermitage Museum, and the Vatican Library—are loaning singular works from their holdings to be displayed throughout 2015 in dialogue with masterworks from the Museum's collections of archaeology, Jewish art and life, and the fine arts. These special pairings and presentations illuminate deep historical and aesthetic connections among the works and complement the Museum's year-long celebratory exhibition program, drawn largely from its collection and devoted to exploring Israel's aesthetic culture in the 50 years before and after its founding. The tribute loans include:

- A rare presentation uniting two halves of an illuminated manuscript of **Maimonides' Mishneh Torah** created in Northern Italy in the 15th century—one from the Vatican Library, the other held jointly by the Israel Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art—for the first time in nearly 200 years (opening May 21);
- **Rembrandt van Rijn's *Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem*** (1630), on loan from the Rijksmuseum and presented in dialogue with *St. Peter in Prison (The Apostle Peter Kneeling)* (1631) from the Israel Museum's collection, together with other works by the artist and his contemporaries (opening June 3);
- **Three bronze portrait busts of the Emperor Hadrian**, including one from the Israel Museum and loans from the British Museum and the Louvre, presented together for the first time in the Museum's Archaeology Wing (opening December 22, 2015); and
- As a final tribute loan, **Wassily Kandinsky's** modernist masterwork *Composition VI* (1913), from the State Hermitage Museum, which complements concurrent exhibitions in the Israel Museum's Fine Arts Wing exploring the early 20th century European avant-garde movements seminal to Israel's development of its own modernist vocabulary at the time of the Museum's founding.

“Loans from sister institutions worldwide serve as a powerful metaphor for the international and cross-cultural connections that we have fostered throughout our history at the Israel Museum, and this dialogue will only deepen as these visiting masterpieces are paired with related works from our own collections,” said James S. Snyder, Anne and Jerome Fisher Director of the Israel Museum. “On the occasion of our 50th anniversary, we are profoundly grateful for exemplary partnerships such as these, and we look forward to continuing this level of international cultural collaboration in the future.”

Further details on the tribute loans on display throughout the Israel Museum's anniversary year follow.



Together Again: A Renaissance Mishneh Torah from the Vatican Library and The Israel Museum

May 21 – September 20, 2015

For the first time in Jerusalem, two halves of a rare late-15th century illuminated manuscript of Maimonides' *Mishneh Torah* are brought together for public display in the Museum's Jewish Art and Life Wing. Originally conceived in two volumes, the codex is considered to be one of the last great examples of manuscript illumination before the invention of the printed book. Some 200 years ago the two volumes were separated: the first volume is now on loan from the Vatican Library in tribute to the Museum's 50th anniversary year; the second was acquired by the Israel Museum jointly with the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2013.

The installation is curated by Daisy Raccah-Djivre, the Israel Museum's Chief Curator of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Wing for Jewish Art and Life.

Rembrandt from Amsterdam to Jerusalem

June 3 – August 29, 2015

This exhibition unites, side by side, two early masterpieces by Rembrandt: the Rijksmuseum's *Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem* (1630) and the Israel Museum's *St. Peter in Prison (The Apostle Peter Kneeling)* (1631). The pairing provides audiences with an unparalleled opportunity to compare these two works, which Rembrandt completed within one year of each other, using the same sitter as his model. Both works depict narratives that are deeply connected to crucial moments in the history of Jerusalem: one featuring the destruction of the first Temple and Jeremiah mourning the burning of his beloved city, while the other presents an event taking place in the same city 650 years later with the Apostle Peter in his prison cell soon after the Crucifixion.



Exhibited together in the Museum's European Art galleries, the two paintings are accompanied by a rare bible from Antwerp dated 1532 (on loan from Israel's National Library), together with oil paintings by Rembrandt's teacher Pieter Lastman and his pupils and followers, including Gerrit Dou, Ferdinand Bol, Jan Victors, and others. A group of exquisite etchings and engravings created throughout Rembrandt's fruitful career and dealing with subjects from the Bible and the New Testament completes the exhibition.

The exhibition is curated by Shlomit Steinberg, Hans Dichand Senior Curator of European Art.



***Cast in Bronze: Hadrian x 3* (working title)**

December 22, 2015 – June 15, 2016

Three extant bronze portraits of the Emperor Hadrian (117 – 138 CE) are brought together for a first-time display in the Israel Museum's Archaeology Wing, marking a symbolic return of the Emperor to Jerusalem, whose last visit to the city was in 129 – 130 CE. The Israel Museum's bronze, found in a Roman legion camp near Beth Shean, depicts the emperor in military garb with a beautifully preserved cuirass. It is flanked by two other extraordinary examples: one from the British Museum, found in 1834 in the river Thames, which may have been created to commemorate Hadrian's visit to Britain in 122 CE; the other, from the collection of the Louvre, thought to have originated in Egypt. Such portraits were an important means in their time for conveying imperial authority, with statues being erected in civic and military monuments to reinforce the breadth of the Emperor Hadrian's rule.

The installation is curated by David Mevorach, Senior Curator of Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine Archaeology, and Rachel Caine-Kreinin, Associate Curator, together with Thorsten Opper, Curator of Greek and Roman Sculpture, The British Museum

From the Hermitage: Kandinsky's Composition VI at the Israel Museum (working title)

December, 2015 – March, 2016

Wassily Kandinsky's modernist masterwork *Composition VI* (1913) marks the final tribute loan to go on view in celebration of the Israel Museum's 50th anniversary year. One of the culminating works in a seminal series by Kandinsky in which abstraction dramatically overtakes representation, *Composition VI* amplifies the Museum's focus during the second half of its anniversary year on the avant-garde aesthetic that developed in middle Europe during the period 1900–1945. This foundational aesthetic was formative for new Israel's international modernist culture at the time of the Museum's founding in 1965. The painting will be displayed following a special exhibition, *Twilight over Berlin: 50 Masterworks from the Neue Nationalgalerie, 1905-1945*, which celebrates German avant-garde freedom in the first half of the 20th century and which is central to this same narrative.



The installation is curated by Dr. Adina Kamien-Kazhdan, David Rockefeller Curator, the Stella Fischbach Department of Modern Art.

About The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

The Israel Museum is the largest cultural institution in the State of Israel and is ranked among the leading art and archaeology museums in the world. Founded in 1965, the Museum houses encyclopedic collections ranging from prehistory through contemporary art and includes the most extensive holdings of Biblical and Holy Land archaeology in the world, among them the Dead Sea Scrolls. Over its first 50 years, the Museum has built a far-ranging collection of nearly 500,000 objects through an unparalleled legacy of gifts and support from its circle of patrons worldwide.

The Museum's 20-acre campus, which underwent comprehensive renewal in 2010 designed by James Carpenter Design Associates and Efrat-Kowalsky Architects, features the Billy Rose Art Garden, the Shrine of the Book, and more than 225,000 square feet of collection gallery and temporary exhibition space. The Museum also organizes programming at its off-site locations in Jerusalem at the Rockefeller Archaeological Museum, where it presents archaeological artifacts from the ancient Land of Israel; and at its historic Ticho House, a venue for exhibitions of contemporary Israeli art.

The Museum is celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout 2015, with a year-long program devoted to an exploration of Israel's aesthetic culture in the fifty years before and after its founding.

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