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## Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan Announces *Floating Walls* Group Art Exhibit December 2 through February 28

The Laurie M. Tisch Gallery opens for the first time since March 2020  
with a multidisciplinary survey of works created by  
seven NY-based Israeli artists

**New York, NY** (November 18, 2021) – The Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan (MMJCCM) will re-open The Laurie M. Tisch Gallery for the first time in 20 months with a multidisciplinary art exhibit, *Floating Walls*. The group exhibit, curated by **Aya Goshen**, features work by seven New York-based Israeli artists: **Noa Charuvi**, **Gal Cohen**, **Michal Geva**, **Zac Hacmon**, **Dana Levy**, **Naomi Safran-Hon**, and **Lee Tal**. *Floating Walls* will be on display at the MMJCCM from December 2, 2021 through February 28, 2022, and is free and open to the public.

*Floating Walls* incorporates site-specific installation, video, painting, and sculpture. By using a variety of materials across media, the artists explore and reimagine the walls that surround them as both material and metaphor. As Israelis living in New York, the seven artists presented in this exhibition focus on their personal relationship to migration and reconstituting one's definition of and relationship to home. Additionally, the works allow the viewer to reflect on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted one's sense of place, particularly throughout periods of lockdown in a domestic environment, and in public and private spaces.

"It is extremely exciting and heartwarming to welcome people back into The Laurie M. Tisch Gallery," shares **Udi Urman**, **Director of The Lambert Center for Arts + Ideas**. "Our walls, and our souls, have missed artwork. For the first exhibit since March 2020, we wanted to explore the new meaning of home and structure. In selecting Israeli artists who live in NY, we are guided by artists who have experienced migration and changing perspectives on what constitutes a 'home.' Gallery visitors will enter a thought-provoking yet sentimental journey through a multidisciplinary survey of work, from video art to sculpture, paintings, and more."

Each of the artists in this exhibit work within a different medium to explore new dimensions of structures that surround and shelter one's experiences. In her two-channel video work, Dana Levy exposes the tension between architecture and nature. Gal Cohen's paintings offer alternative narratives to demolished historical houses from her hometown, Hadera. Michal Geva's painting breaks the logic of compositional form and inserts conflicts into depicted architecture. Naomi Safran-Hon's mixed-media works investigate the archaeology of dilapidated walls, evoking concepts of home, memory, and displacement. Noa Charuvi reimagines construction sites and

piles of rubble as places of beauty. Zac Hacmon's sculptures deal with the relationship between architecture and the human body. And, Lee Tal's site-specific installation brings awareness to the surroundings of the viewer.

During the three days of creation of Tal's art piece, the MMJCCM will host groups in The Laurie M. Tisch Gallery from The Saul and Carole Zabar Nursery School, The Wechsler Center for Modern Aging, and The Jack and Shirley Silver Center for Special Needs. These community groups will interact with Tal while he is working and be a part of the creation. This site-specific piece will be finalized live at the opening reception on Thursday, December 2.

For more details on *Floating Walls*, please visit [mmjccm.org/arts-film/laurie-m-tisch-gallery/upcoming-exhibits](http://mmjccm.org/arts-film/laurie-m-tisch-gallery/upcoming-exhibits).

Gallery exhibits and programs are made possible with the generous support of the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund. Additional support is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the generosity of individual donors.

All individuals over the age of 12 are required to show proof of full vaccination (via NYS Excelsior Pass, NYC COVID Safe app, or vaccination card) each time entering the MMJCCM.

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Noa Charuvi** is based in New York City and was born in Israel. Noa holds an MFA in Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts in New York and a BFA in Fine Arts from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem. Noa was a recipient of The Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant for 2018-19. Her work was exhibited internationally, in venues such as The Bronx Museum of the Arts; Haifa Museum of Art; and Mishkan Museum of Art, Ein Harod.

**Gal Cohen** is a visual artist living and working in Harlem, NY. She is a recent alumni of the AIM fellowship of the Bronx Museum of the Arts. Cohen participated in residencies as well as solo and group exhibitions in Israel, Canada, France, and the US, and is the recipient of the Bluewolf scholarship. Cohen earned her MFA in Fine Arts at The New School's Parsons School of Design, and her BFA in Fine Arts from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem.

**Michal Geva** is an Israeli artist based in New York. She completed her MFA in Fine Arts at the School of Visual Arts, and attended the BFA program in Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam and completed it in Beit Berrel School of Art "Hamidrasha" in Israel. She participated in the Fellowship program for young creators at Alma Home for Hebrew Culture during 2011-2013. She was awarded a Scholarship from America-Israel Cultural Foundation in 2008, and a Rabinovich foundation grant in 2013.

**Zac Hacmon** is an artist based in New York. He has recently exhibited at Jack Shainman Gallery, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Smack Mellon, LMAKgallery, Petach Tikva Museum of Art, Meet Factory Gallery, and Artsonje Center. He has received the Rita Glasser Fellowship Award, the UJA-Federation of New York's Rose Biller Endowment Fund Award, and Unesco Aschberg Scholarship. Hacmon received an MFA from Hunter College and a BFA from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem.

**Dana Levy** completed her BA at Camberwell College of Art, London, and received a postgraduate degree at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee. She has taught video at Shenkar

College of Art, and has taken part in artist residencies in New York, Florida, Austria, Finland, and Milan. In 2008, she received the Young Israeli Artist Award.

**Naomi Safran-Hon** is an Israeli artist who creates art that is representative of Brooklyn, New York, where she lives and works. She received a BA from Brandeis University and an MFA from Yale University School of Art. She is also a 2012 The Skowhegan School of Art residency alumnus. She received the Young Artist Award from the Hecht Museum at the University of Haifa, and in 2012 was chosen as one of five winning artists to exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum.

**Lee Tal** is a New York-based conceptual pop, multi-disciplinary artist. Tal's work has been featured at Sejong National Museum of Art, North Dakota Museum of Art, MASin Museum in Mexico, Tel Aviv Museum of the Arts, Susquehanna Art Museum, CICA Museum, SAMA Museum, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Tal's works are in various private collections in the United States and Europe.

#### **ABOUT THE MARLENE MEYERSON JCC MANHATTAN**

Together with its community, the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan creates opportunities for people to connect, grow, and learn within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. Located on 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, the JCC is a vibrant non-profit community center on the Upper West Side. It also presents a robust slate of virtual programming, serving an even wider community. The JCC serves over 55,000 people annually through 1,200 programs each season that educate, inspire, and transform participants' minds, bodies, and spirits. Throughout COVID-19, the JCC has pivoted to meet the community online, exceeding 102,000 registrations to over 3,000 virtual classes and programs in the earliest part of the pandemic. Since its inception, the JCC has been committed to serving the community by offering programs, classes, and events that extend beyond neighborhood boundaries, reaching people at all stages of their lives. Learn more at [mmjccm.org](http://mmjccm.org)

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