

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Alexander, [lalexander@mmjccm.org](mailto:lalexander@mmjccm.org)

To view press photos, [please click here](#)

## **Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan Announces *WALKING ON DRY LAND* Gallery Exhibit by New York and Israel-based Artist Rotem Reshef June 14 through August 28**

**Free immersive installation explores nature and climate through large-scale scrolls of painting, imprinted with abandoned materials**

**New York, NY** (May 26, 2022) – Today, the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan (MMJCCM) announced *Walking on Dry Land*, an immersive large-scale exhibit by New York and Israel-based artist **Rotem Reshef**. The solo exhibit, curated by **MMJCCM Director of the Lambert Center for Arts + Ideas Udi Urman**, highlights the cycle of seasons and the revived beauty of the world through a site-specific installation. *Walking on Dry Land* will be on display in The Laurie M. Tisch Gallery at the MMJCCM from June 14 through August 28, 2022, and is free and open to the public.

*Walking on Dry Land* is created on long scrolls of painting, using abandoned organic and artificial materials such as waste vegetation, often collected in the meeting points between landscape and urbanism. These “relics” are imprinted onto the canvas scrolls, in a technique that resembles photograms. The end result echos a political and social commentary, via immersive installations and paintings that relate to society’s effect on climate change, and one’s relations to their private and public environments.

“Every artistic expression has the potential to create a profound and unmediated impact on its audience,” shares *Walking on Dry Land* artist **Rotem Reshef**. “To me, *Walking on Dry Land* represents a kind of an emotional climax that summarizes a merge between various historical periods, from the ancient past to the most recent present. It reminds us of these parallel paths that can shift awareness to circumstances and our ability to change realities, our own and of our surroundings.”

Offering a haven from the bustling city, Rotem Reshef’s painterly environment is created by two islands of color and texture. While suggesting a site of refuge, the site-specific installation presents a dual perspective of an inner world mirroring an exterior landscape, arresting in time the cycle of seasons. Reshef’s practice suggests that the medium of painting can shift modes, expand and modify our perception, like a story unfolding. Reshef’s work alludes to a long history of drifting and wandering—of her own, her family’s, and all of us who navigate a world of shifting

restrictions—the closing and opening of borders and global migration. Movement through the space may allude to the crossing of the Red Sea, as the dry land offered a fantastical path of rescue and safety, a sudden and unexpected change of events that transformed a catastrophe into a trail for redemption.

"Reshef's work is captivating. The first time I experienced it, I felt like I entered a new world, yet still a world that was familiar," shares **Udi Urman, Exhibit Curator and MMJCCM Director of the Lambert Center for Arts + Ideas**. "Reshef's work, while tackling serious questions regarding our world and environment, is inviting. Her art epitomizes the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan's principles and values. It will resonate with our nursery school students just as it will with our modern aging community. I'm excited for our community to participate in this immersive experience together."

Strolling urban environments like Walter Benjamin's 'flâneur', Reshef picks up traces of abandoned history and signs of lives that existed and vanished: vegetation waste, twigs and scraps of wood. Remains of a landscape, either planned or wild, are gathered once again, into the immortalizing world of art-making. By bringing these anonymous materials into the studio, Reshef offers renewal and healing, creating an opportunity for viewers to experience a revived beauty.

This exhibition continues Reshef's installation from 2020, *A Heartfelt Event*, that reacted in real time to the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic and to the political turmoil of that year on Israeli society and the artist's own private life. Yet, this time Reshef reflects on the age "after" the crisis, its anxiety, and unknown long-term consequences.

***Walking on Dry Land*** will open on Tuesday, June 14. The exhibit is free and open to the public during JCC building hours. For more details, please visit [mmjccm.org/current-exhibit](http://mmjccm.org/current-exhibit). Gallery talks with Reshef will be announced at a later date.

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 aged 5 and up must be fully vaccinated to attend JCC programs. Individuals 12 and older are required to show proof of full vaccination (via NYS Excelsior Pass, NYC COVID Safe app, or vaccination card) each time entering the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan and JCC Harlem.

## **ABOUT ROTEM RESHEF**

Rotem Reshef is a painter and installation artist based in New York and Tel Aviv, a graduate of Hamidrasha School of Art in Israel, and the Reinwardt Academy, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Reshef's work of recent years creates a political and social commentary via immersive installations and paintings that relate to society's effect on climate change and one's relations to his/her private and public environments, while embracing methods and ideas of "Tikkun" and Ecofeminism. Reshef uses waste vegetation (branches, petals, ferns, leaves etc.), collected in the streets, parks and elsewhere in the urban surroundings, and imprints these "relics" onto her canvases, in a technique that resembles photograms. By that she is commenting on hidden tensions between native and transplanted flora vs. man-made decisions in creating manicured landscapes and organizing a living environment both for human beings and nature. By creating these fossil-like ghostly compositions that range from abstractions to more representational

figurations, Reshef's work alludes to forms of life that existed in the world, even if only for a short time and are no longer with us, but that now get rediscovered and recognized, gaining "a second chance" or a "second life cycle" via her artistic process.

Rotem Reshef's paintings and large-scale installations have been shown internationally in solo and group exhibitions, in venues as the Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY; The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv; Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; Kwan Fong Gallery, California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA; Tall Wall Space, University of La Verne, California; Soho House, West Hollywood, Los Angeles, California; Artists' House, Tel Aviv, Israel; Alessandro Berni Gallery, New York, NY; The Venice Arsenale, Venice, Italy; ArtSpace TLV, Tel Aviv, Israel; School of Visual Arts, New York, NY; Scope Art Fair, Miami Beach; QF Gallery, East Hampton, NY; Susan Eley Fine Art, New York, NY; San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, California; and the FSU Museum of Fine Arts, Tallahassee, FL.

### **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)

###