

## BETONBOX

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### Presse release

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## ALFRED / TEL AVIV MEETS BETONBOX Artists' initiatives in cross-border dialogue

A new artist exchange between Israeli and German artists begins with an exhibition in the **BETONBOX** titled *Lichtung* (*clearing*), which opens on October 2nd at 7 pm. • The pilot project will start with an exhibition of Israeli and Düsseldorf artist in the **BETONBOX**, a former bunker in Münsterstrasse, which functions as a so-called off-space since 2010. Five artists from the **Alfred Institute** in Tel Aviv, Israel are to visit the city of Düsseldorf in September, and with their hosts will invite to an exhibition at **BETONBOX**, opening on Friday, 2nd October at 7 pm. A panel discussion is held on Tuesday, 20th October at 6 pm at the Kunstakademie (Art Academy) Düsseldorf. • Moderated by Prof. Robert Fleck, representatives of both artist collectives will discuss the situation and promotion of contemporary art in Tel Aviv and Düsseldorf and their concepts and practices as non-profit initiatives in both countries.

### Clearings in the bunker

In the exhibition 15 contemporary artists' positions grapple with the issue of *encounter / clearing*. The word *Lichtung* and the Hebrew word for *shadow* have etymologically a close proximity and, despite their polarity, in our respective collective memory they do have a similar meaning: a place of refreshment in safety, where you can relax in peace for a moment. [The clearing as a source of inspiration.] To reach a shady spot on a desert march, or to find a glade in a German forest, are both moments of clearing, which have positive connotations in the respective culture. • Early 2016, the event will be continued in Tel Aviv. Another joint exhibition and series of events will take place in the **Alfred Gallery**, and more meetings will follow. The aim, beyond a personal exchange among colleagues, is to enable international dialogues and to provide the impetus for a long-term cooperation.

### Art Land Rhineland

Large crowds of Israeli artists move from Tel Aviv into the stronghold Berlin. As an alternative to the well-trodden paths to the capital, the artists of the **Alfred Institute** will find a bountiful art scene in the busy neighborhood of the Rhineland and Ruhr region. They have been one of the first initiatives of their kind to promote independent young art in Tel Aviv for ten years now. With an exhibition space, workshops, lectures and studios in a former press building, the **Alfred Institute** creates an important space for the independent Israeli art scene. Under the name of **Alfred Institute**, the 15 artists are a self-organized association, similar to the Düsseldorf **BETONBOX**. • Combinations of artists and studio communities like these are proven alternatives to the highly individualized and commercial strategies in the art world. • In recent years, the **BETONBOX** has secured a firm place in the exhibition calendar of Düsseldorf's off-space scene. The upper floor of the bunker in Rath-Mitte is the historic home of both a studio community and an art collective which organizes and carries out exhibitions, mainly supported by the Cultural Office of the city of Düsseldorf.

## Openness and hospitality

The artists Nathalie Bertrams, Mavi Garcia, Mareike Piepel, Yuliana Gorkorov, Vera Lossau, Florian Zeeh, Bernard Kucken, and Amit Goffer hope for a lively and exciting start of the project. From September 25th, they will welcome their Israeli colleagues Rotem Ritov, Dafna Gazit, Dvir Cohen-Kedar, Adi Levy and Gidi Smilansky and look forward to many curious visitors. • *Lichtung* is part of the program of the **Foreign Office, the Robert Bosch Stiftung** and the **Goethe-Institut** on the occasion of the *fiftieth anniversary of diplomatic relations between Israel and Germany*. • The project is enabled through the generous support of federal state NRW, the Embassy of Israel and the Cultural Office of Düsseldorf. • Other sponsors or partners are welcome.

## Events in detail

*Saturday, September 26th, 8.30 pm*

**Screening** of contemporary video art from Israel, **BETONBOX**

*Friday, October 2nd, 7 pm*

**Opening** of exhibition titled *Lichtung* (clearing), **BETONBOX**

**Duration** until October 25th, 2015

*Sunday, October 4th, 12 am*

**Brunch** with Israeli cuisine in the **BETONBOX**

*Tuesday, October 20th, 6 pm*

**Round table** in **Café SPARTA, Kunstakademie Düsseldorf**  
Eiskellerstraße 1, 40213 Düsseldorf

Further press information and  
high resolution images can be found at:  
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**BETONBOX**