

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 12, 2008



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ISRAELI ART MONTH COMES TO SOUTH FLORIDA

ARMORY ART CENTER AND THE ASSOCIATION OF ISRAEL'S DECORATIVE ARTS PRESENT SPECIAL ISRAELI ART EXHIBITIONS, WORKSHOPS THIS MARCH

The Armory Art Center (www.armoryart.org) and the Association of Israel's Decorative Arts (AIDA) (www.aidaarts.org) are partnering to bring South Florida a month of Israeli art. **Israeli Art Month** at the Armory Art Center will take place from March 6 to April 5 and will feature unique works created by leading Israeli fiber artists, artist-led workshops, a lecture presented by curators from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Racine Art Museum, and a jewelry trunk show presented by the Yaw Gallery of Michigan.

Israeli Art Month's marquee event is "A Common Thread: An Exhibition of Israel Fiber Art." The exhibition showcases the contemporary Israeli art scene and presents ornamental, functional and wearable works of fiber art created by six leading Israeli artists. The exhibit offers the opportunity for many of the artists to show their work for the first time in South Florida. Featured artwork includes the traditional Arab embroidery of Arab Israeli artist Buthina Abu Milhem, and colorful, modern woven works created by Yehudit Katz. "A Common Thread" will run from March 6 to April 5.

Other highlights of Israeli Art Month include an informal discussion on Friday, March 14th led by Jane Adlin, Metropolitan Museum of Art and Davira Taragin, Racine Art Museum, on the development of Israel's decorative arts.

"Our partnership with AIDA is our first step in what I hope is a long relationship," says Armory Executive Director, Jesus De Las Salas. "It is important to me and the Armory that we help artists, not only in our community but artists around the world and truly create "A Common Thread".

"When the Armory approached AIDA to partner with them, we thought the proposition could not be a more natural fit," said Doug Anderson, AIDA co-founder and Palm Beach resident. "AIDA has the art and the artists and the Armory offers a wonderful facility. We are always seeking new opportunities for exposure of AIDA's artists and we are thrilled that this opportunity presented itself and that the South Florida community will have access to these creative individuals."

"The collaboration between AIDA and the Armory Art Center allows both organizations to put their best feet forward," said AIDA Director, Erika Vogel. "To date, AIDA's programs have focused on exhibitions, student scholarships and overseas workshops. Our partnership with the Armory allows us to combine our strengths and present the full spectrum of Israeli talent in one location."

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ISRAELI ART MONTH

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Public Opening: "A Common Thread: An Exhibition of Israeli Fiber Art"

Thursday, March 6th, 6:00 – 8:00pm

Exhibition: March 6 – April 5

A Common Thread showcases the work of six leading Israeli artists working in fiber. The exhibition showcases ornamental, functional and wearable works of art. Sales of artworks directly benefit participating artists and the programs at AIDA and the Armory Art Center.

Workshops by Israeli Artists

March 7-9 Anat Aboucaya Grozovski – Creating Jewelry using Mixed Media. Cost \$450

Grozovski, faculty member of the Shenkar College of Engineering and Design and former freelance designer for Paris fashion house Christian Lacroix, presents a three-day workshop focusing on the process of idea development using the design process. Students will first make paper-collages and three-dimensional maquettes to explore size and shape before using a variety of mixed media to execute their ideas into finished pieces of jewelry.

March 14 -16 Nirit Dekel – Glass Beadmaking using Lampworking Techniques. Cost \$600

During this three-day workshop students will learn the basics of lampworking with a focus on technique, form and color. Nirit will teach various techniques, including: forming round, bicon and tubular shapes, applying metal foils and frit, creating multicolored cane twist, and surface treatments such as raking and dot overlays. At the completion of the course each student will be able to create new colors, flower designs and beads.

Jewelry Trunk Show

March 6 – March 17th

The Yaw Gallery presents an exhibition of precious and semi-precious jewelry crafted by AIDA artists, including workshop presenter Nirit Dekel. www.yawgallery.com

VIP Reception

Thursday, March 13th, 6:00pm

In celebration of Israeli Art Month at the Armory, Dale & Doug Anderson, Charles Bronfman, Arlene Kaufman & Sandy Baklor and Jan & Harding Willinger host a special viewing of "A Common Thread: An Exhibition of Israeli Fiber Art". Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Lecture: Decorative Arts in Israel

Friday, March 13th, 10:30 - 12:00pm, NO CHARGE

AIDA jury members, Jane Adlin, Metropolitan Museum of Art and Davira Taragin, Racine Art Museum lead an informal discussion on the development of Israel's decorative arts. Jo Mett, Camino Real Gallery in Boca Raton, will moderate the discussion. Following the presentation, attendees will have a chance to view a flameworking demonstration by AIDA artist, Nirit Dekel.

The Association of Israel's Decorative Arts (AIDA)

www.aidaarts.org

AIDA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering the development of contemporary decorative artists from Israel by connecting them to an international audience of galleries, institutions, and collectors.

The Armory Art Center

www.armoryart.org

The Armory Art Center is a not-for-profit community-based visual arts education and exhibition center providing opportunities for individual growth, self expression, increased awareness and appreciation of the arts through participation in studio, exhibition, lecture and other educational programs. The Center seeks to educate, enrich and engage a diverse population through the "experience of art".

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