

Press release, Haifa Museum of Art, Israel

**Young Israeli Artists in New York
Haifa Museum of Art, on view through September 2015**

**Ido Abramsohn / Eli Barak / Shirley Wegner / Alona Weiss/ Noa Charuvi / Etty Yaniv /
Naomi Safran-Hon / Ronen Shai**

Exhibition Curator: Lola Vilenkin

Growing numbers of Israeli artists are choosing to relocate their place of residence and artistic activity abroad. It seems that today, international artistic success is a prerequisite for recognition in Israel. Many Israeli artists choose to move to New York, because of the opportunities it offers as one of the world's leading art capitals.

The works presented in this exhibition were in large part created for the foreign eye, which is not accustomed to the intensive everyday life in Israel. This general, more universal reading gives us breathing space and a broader range of interpretation, beyond the immediate critical-political dimension of the works. The presentation of these artists' works in Israel suggests examining the way in which we perceive ourselves "from there."

Ido Abramsohn explores visual representations of Israeli nationality in a series of studio photographs, which juxtaposes two types of objects: tourist souvenirs from Israel and objects from the collection of the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center. Shirley Wegner searches in her imagination for the place she left behind. She creates aerial views of her homeland using paper sheets, which she turns into topography construction material. Alona Weiss employs the media of sculpture, video art, and printmaking to explore the politics of memorial sites and monuments. She examines the boundaries of content and form by addressing the transient character of the concept of memory. Noa Charuvi documents a paratrooper company embarking on the Cast Lead

operation, and translates a blurry video, shot using night vision technology, into a series of ink and acrylic drawings. These works present some of the intimate, perhaps final moments shared by the combat soldiers. Etty Yaniv builds three-dimensional objects hovering in space, prepared using layers of paper and scraps of drawings of familiar urban scenes. These are broken and crumpled landscapes, pressed against each other. Naomi Safran-Hon works with photographs of the ruins of Wadi Salib, which she rebuilds using concrete pushed through lace. She composes an image with substantial materiality and volume, spilling beyond the ruins and invading the exhibition space.

The detached perspectives in these artists' works borrow their various imageries from mass media and documentary materials, but also from the artists' memory and imagination. They dissect and reconstruct the landscape and reality of their homeland, as well as their identity as immigrant and as Israeli artists. (Lola Vilenkin)

[to Museum's website](#)