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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Los Angeles-The USC Fisher Museum of Art is pleased to present "The Sota Project" by Ofri Cnaani, an immersive, multilayered video installation that unfolds in both time and three-dimensional space.

Sota, an anonymous Hebrew Biblical story, recounts the tale of two sisters, Sota and Bekhorah, who are bound together in symbiotic loyalty when Sota's husband accuses her of infidelity. Against a backdrop of jealousy, betrayal, judgment, ritual humiliation, and ultimately death, Cnaani's installation depicts a deceptively simple moral parable that unfolds in countless ways.

Video projections on all four walls of the exhibition space will allow multiple narratives to develop concurrently, thus calling into question the notion of a single, coherent truth. The Sota Project uses the most current new media technologies while employing storytelling techniques inspired by ancient Greco-Roman murals and Renaissance tapestries.

As James Trainor writes in the exhibition's catalogue essay: "In the case of Ofri Cnaani's Sota Project, a complex multilayered video installation that unfolds in both time and three-dimensional space, the original kernel of a story is barely there. It is a haiku, an obscure scriptural footpath that peters out into nothing almost before it has begun, a barebones inventory of facts a mere fourteen lines long. The anonymous story from the Talmud - recounting the tale of two sisters, Sota and Bekhorah, living in separate villages but bound together in symbiotic loyalty amidst a backdrop of jealousy, betrayal, guilt and innocence, deception, societal judgment, ritual humiliation and ultimately death - is, as Cnaani points out, a deceptively simple moral parable, one that leaves open multiple blind spots."

Preview the installation [HERE](#).

"The Sota Project" will be on view at the USC Fisher Museum of Art from October 7 to December 1, 2012 in conjunction with the exhibition "[A Complex Weave: Women and Identity in Contemporary Art](#)".

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Special Event

“The Sota Project: Women in ConTEXT”

Sunday October 7, 2012, 2-3:30pm

A panel discussion, “The Sota Project: Women in ConTEXT”, will focus on the role of Israeli art and culture in today’s global art scene, while excavating its layered and deeply-rooted historical contexts.

Panelists include: artist **Ofri Cnaani**; Talmudist **Dvora Weisberg**, Director of the School of Rabbinic Studies at Hebrew Union College; **Megan Hibler Reid**, Assistant Professor of Religion at USC; contemporary art critic **James Trainor**, and moderator, **Selma Holo**, Director of the USC Fisher Museum of Art.

Join our reception of “The Sota Project” following the panel from 3:30PM – 4:30PM.

<http://fisher.usc.edu/events/event.html/event/898011/>

Organized by the USC Fisher Museum of Art, the USC Roski School of Fine Arts and the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Co-sponsored by the USC Initiative for Israeli Arts and Humanities.

About the Artist

Ofri Cnaani (b. 1975) currently lives in Brooklyn, NYC. Her solo exhibitions and performances include: BMW Guggenheim Lab, NY; PS1/MoMA, NY; Twister, Network of Lombardy Contemporary Art Museums, Italy; Kunsthalle Galapagos, NY; Andrea Meislin Gallery, NY; Braverman Gallery, Tel Aviv; Pack Gallery, Milan; Haifa Museum of Art, Israel; Herzliya Museum of Art, Israel. Group exhibitions include: Moscow Biennial; The Kitchen, NY; Bronx Museum of the Arts, NY; Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna; Arnolfini Foundation Museum, Bristol, UK; Tel Aviv Museum; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Prague Triennale. Cnaani was a Six Points Fellow and two-time winner of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation award. After showing in New York and Tel-Aviv, Cnaani's Sota Project will be on view at Princeton University and Rutgers University, as part of the exhibition Fertile Crescent: Gender, Art, Society; the Museo d'arte Contemporanea, Rome in October 2012; and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 2014. Catalog available through [Sterthal Books](#).

Ofricnaani.com

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About the Museum

The [USC Fisher Museum of Art](#) – established in 1939 – is accredited by the American Association of Museums. It functions as a center of intellectual inquiry and aesthetic enjoyment in support of USC's goals of research, teaching, artistic creation, and service to society. The Fisher Museum bears special responsibility to link the art in its permanent collections and the art it presents in its temporary exhibitions to all of USC's present and future audiences: to its students, faculty, staff alumni, and surrounding communities. Fisher Museum offers an array of programming, including lectures, artist's talks, yoga, film screenings, concerts, and poetry readings to enhance and support its exhibitions. Fisher Museum is also proud to be the home and working laboratory for the USC International Museum Institute, a think- tank for museum professionals and a division of the USC College.

The USC Fisher Museum of Art is conveniently located along the Metro Expo Line. For information on routes and times visit LA Metro at www.metro.net/expo.

Museum hours and Admission:

OPEN September through May of the USC Academic Calendar.

Tuesday through Friday (noon to 5), and Saturday (noon to 4).

CLOSED Sundays

Principal sponsorship of this exhibition at the USC Fisher Museum of Art is provided by the Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation.

Additional support generously provided by numerous sponsors, including a grant from [The Six Points Fellowship for Emerging Jewish Artists](#) (a partnership of Avoda Arts, JDub Records, and the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, and made possible with major funding from UJA-Federation of New York.); [Artis](#) ; [The Rabinovich Foundation](#); [The Consulate General of Israel in NY](#); [Hadassah-Brandeis Institute](#); [Andrea Meislin Gallery](#); [Braverman Gallery](#); [Rothschild 69](#); and [Mana Contemporary](#).



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