

Press Release



December 2015

***This Place* Explores the Complexity of Israel and the West Bank as Place and Metaphor through the Lenses of Twelve Highly Acclaimed Photographers**

Frédéric Brenner, Wendy Ewald, Joseph Koudelka, Rosalind Fox Solomon, Thomas Struth, and Jeff Wall among Artists Who Explore Daily Life, Inhabitants, and Landscape of the Region

As artists around the globe become increasingly engaged with today's pressing social and political issues, *This Place* presents works by twelve internationally acclaimed photographers who visited Israel and the West Bank in an unprecedented effort to offer twelve distinct photographic perspectives on the region. The exhibition is on view at the Brooklyn Museum from February 12 through June 5, 2016.



Wendy Ewald (American, born 1951). *At Home*, photograph by Amal, Negev Desert, 2012. Archival pigment ink print mounted on aluminum, 5 ³/₈ x 6 ⁷/₈ in. (13.7 x 17.5 cm). © Wendy Ewald, all rights reserved

Conceived of by photographer Frédéric Brenner, *This Place* explores one of the most complex and contested regions in the world today through the eyes of Brenner (France), Wendy Ewald (U.S.), Martin Kollar (Slovakia), Josef Koudelka (Czech Republic), Jungjin Lee (South Korea), Gilles Peress (France), Fazal Sheikh (U.S.), Stephen Shore (U.S.), Rosalind Fox Solomon (U.S.), Thomas Struth (Germany), Jeff Wall (Canada), and Nick Waplington (United Kingdom). The participating photographers—none of whom are Israeli or Palestinian, and a majority of whom had never been to the region before—took up residency in Israel and the West Bank for an average of six months between 2009 and 2012. During that time, the artists traveled throughout the region and engaged with a remarkable variety of individuals and communities, focusing their lenses on the landscape, inhabitants, and daily life to provide an outside view of the histories and challenges of this fraught land.

Brooklyn Museum

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Each artist was free to pursue his or her own self-defined project, resulting in twelve original and strikingly different bodies of work and more than 600 photographs that combine to reveal the many rifts, dissonances, and paradoxes of Israel and the West Bank. According to Brenner, "It seemed to me necessary to gather a large spectrum of individuals whose origins, passions and paradoxical and contradictory perspectives could help us grasp the unbearable complexity of this place and its voices."

The group project that led to *This Place* echoes previous initiatives such as the 1935 commission of the U.S. Farm Security Administration, which gathered artists to use photography to ask essential questions about culture, society, and individual lives during the Great Depression, and La Mission photographique de la DATAR, which documented the French landscape of the 1980s. Unlike those precedents, however, *This Place* did not receive any government funding and all the artists were from outside the region. Brenner notes, "The viewer is asked to work, there are no resolutions, not for me and not for anyone. People will have to wrestle with the ideas of longing, belonging and exclusion."

"We believe art has the power to spark change, challenge conventions, and build bridges. The Brooklyn Museum is proud to host this internationally traveling exhibition, as it gives us all an opportunity to think anew about this historic region of the world," says Anne Pasternak, Shelby White and Leon Levy Director.

This Place will be accompanied by an exhibition catalogue as well as companion books featuring each photographer's work. The Museum will also host a series of public programs and community events exploring how artists around the globe are taking on difficult subjects in an effort to help us see our times from fresh and unusual perspectives.

For further information about upcoming programs, visit www.brooklynmuseum.org/exhibitions/this_place.

This Place is organized by Chronicle of a People Foundation, Inc., New York, and the tour is managed by Curatorial Assistance, Pasadena, California. The exhibition was curated by Charlotte Cotton. The Brooklyn presentation is organized by Cora Michael, Associate Curator of Exhibitions, Brooklyn Museum.

Support for this exhibition is provided by the Bertha and Isaac Liberman Foundation, Michele Gerber Klein, Jerome and Ellen Stern, and the Martha A. and Robert S. Rubin Exhibition Fund.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution \$16; students with valid I.D. and seniors \$10. Ages 19 and under FREE. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. Bus: B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; first Saturday of each month (except September), 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Closed Monday, Tuesday, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.