

AYA BEN RON - FIELD HOSPITAL X

by Avi Lubin

Pavilion of Israel at the 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia

May 11–November 24, 2019

Giardini della Biennale – Venezia

Press conference - May 8 at 3:30pm

Opening - May 10 at 1pm

Field Hospital X (FHX) is a new, mobile, international institution, established by artist Aya Ben Ron. It is a unique organization that is committed to researching the way art can react and act in the face of social ills and corrupt values in society. Learning from the structure and practice of hospitals, health maintenance organizations and healing resorts, FHX provides a space in which silenced voices can be heard and social injustices can be seen.

FHX has been conceived with the intention to create a safe space to screen *No Body*, a video by Aya Ben Ron about abuse in the family that tells her story after many years of silence. Ben Ron wanted to create a place where people would see and listen to her story, as well as to other stories that need to be heard.

When visitors enter FHX they take a queue number and wait in the Reception Area to be called. While waiting they watch the FHX TV Program - a video work by Ben Ron that gives information about the hospital's ideology, its Care-Areas and Care-Kits.

Once their number is called, visitors continue to the Care-Areas and FHX facilities: Safe-Units in which they can learn how to produce a Self-Contained Shout; and Care-Chairs - devices that consist of a personal screen and headphones, to create the necessary conditions for personal viewing of FHX Care-Kits.

Each Care-Kit contains one video by an invited artist, telling a personal story and revealing a social injustice. In each Care-Kit, the video is followed by two Second-Opinions. Second-Opinions are short responses by experts coming from various fields of knowledge and backgrounds: philosophy, law, medicine, psychoanalysis, education, and anthropology, among others. Through Second-Opinions, FHX visitors can open up to a new perspective, get more information and hear a different point of view about what they just saw.

FHX currently provides four Care-Kits including Aya Ben Ron's video *No Body*. In addition to *No Body*, the Care-Kits include: *Habit* by an anonymous Palestinian artist is his personal resistance to the Israeli occupation; *Block of Clay*, by Roey Victoria Heifetz and Zohar Melinek-Ezra is a video that confronts gender identity and alienation from the body; and *Institutional Abduction*, by Idit Avrahami is about the institutional abduction and forced disappearance of thousands of babies and young children from Yemenite, Mizrahi and Balkan immigrant families in Israel in the 1950's.

Field Hospital X was established by artist Aya Ben Ron, who serves as its founder and director, and developed together with curator Avi Lubin and producer Miki Gov. It will be launched at the Israeli Pavilion at the 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, then it will travel to various sites around the world, and continue to develop and expand along the way. In future venues, FHX will support and produce additional Care-Kits with new participating local and international artists.

Aya Ben Ron - Founder, Director, Artist

Multidisciplinary artist. A professor at Haifa University and Hadassah Academic College, Jerusalem, Israel. Her work ranges from site specific projects and installations to moving-image, documentary and film, and includes collaborations with medical institutions and hospitals.

Avi Lubin - Curator

Curator and writer in the field of contemporary art. Curator of Hamidrasha Gallery – Hayarkon 19 and founding co-editor of Tohu Magazine - a trilingual online art publication (Hebrew, Arabic and English). Between 2014-2019 Lubin served as the head of theoretical studies of the Postgraduate Program of Fine Art at the Faculty of Arts – Hamidrasha, Beit Berl College.

Miki Gov - Producer

Producer of performing and visual arts. He has produced numerous events in the fields of music, dance, theatre, arts and television. Additionally, Gov has initiated, arranged and managed international tours of dance groups and musicians.

Israeli Pavillion

At the 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia

Giardini della Biennale – Venice

May 11–November 24, 2019

info@fieldhospitalX.org

www.fieldhospitalX.org

Instagram [@fieldhospitalX](https://www.instagram.com/fieldhospitalX)

Press contact

Silvia Macchetto | silvia@silviamacchetto.com | + 39 3383429581

Margherita Sassone | margherita.sassone@gmail.com | + 39 3474457067

Organizers

Israel Ministry of Culture and Sport - Museums and Visual Art department
Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Division for Culture and Scientific Affairs
The Israel Embassy, Rome



Supporters

The Israel Lottery Council for Culture & Art; The University of Haifa; ZAZ10TS; The University of Haifa's Faculty of Law Legal Clinics and Refugee Mental Health; The Leon Charney Resolution Center; The Leon Charney Forum on New Diplomacy based at The University of Haifa; Gandyr Foundation; NATAL Israel Trauma and Resiliency Center; Outset Contemporary Art Fund; David and Michal Fuhrer; TIAF: Tel Aviv Israeli Art Foundation, Tel Aviv University; and Sotheby's Israel

