



Exhibition of Works by Renowned Israeli Photographer Micha Bar-Am Documents Historical, Social, and Cultural Landscape of Israel During 1967

Photographs include rare color images of the Six Day War and depictions of significant events in Bar-Am's personal life

Jerusalem (May 15, 2017) — Marking 50 years since the Six Day War, the Israel Museum will display a collection of photographs created in 1967 by Micha Bar-Am, one of Israel's most prominent photographers. The 100 works on display, many on view for the first time, depict Israel at an important juncture in its history, as well as the social, and cultural evolution of the country during this monumental year. Arranged chronologically, the photographs are original prints from the artist's personal collection, and were commissioned by local and international journals or intended for private use. They capture major events in Israel's history, including rare color depictions of the Six Day War, as well as the year's large-scale public demonstrations against unemployment rates, living conditions in underserved communities, and the relationship between religion and state. They also reveal intimate moments from Bar-Am's own life, such as the birth of his eldest son – the first birth to be photographed and published in Israeli media. Also on display are original magazines in which some of Bar-Am's most iconic images were published, as well as the artist's diary from 1967, which provides a rare glimpse into the artistic and editorial choices behind his work. *Micha Bar-Am: 1967* is on view from May 16, 2017 through October 17, 2017.

“Drawing attention to 1967 as a turning point for documentary photography in Israel, this exhibition presents a unique and comprehensive visual record of Israeli society at the time, through the lens of influential Israeli photographer Micha Bar-Am,” said Noam Gal, Horace and Grace Goldsmith Curator of Photography in the Noel and Harriette Levine Department of Photography at the Israel Museum. “The bold and powerful photographs on display showcase both familiar and lesser known national events, which together with depictions of personal moments from Bar-Am's own life, illuminate Israeli history and culture during one of the most momentous years since its founding.”

About Micha Bar-Am

Born in Berlin, Germany in 1930, Bar-Am arrived with his family to British Mandate Palestine in 1936. He became active in the pre-state underground and was drafted into the Palmach unit during the War of Independence in 1948. After the war, Bar-Am began documenting life on Kibbutz Malkiya, which he helped found, as well as archeological digs near Kibbutz Gesher-Haziv, where he later moved. In the 1950s, he joined the staff of the Israeli Army magazine *Bamachane*. After covering the Six Day War in 1967, he joined the staff of both Magnum and *The New York Times*, where he worked as the Middle East photographic correspondent for nearly three decades. Bar-Am covered major events in Israeli history, including the Sinai Campaign, the Eichmann Trial, the Six Day War, the Yom Kippur War, the First Lebanon War, and others. He co-founded The International Center of Photography and established the Department of Photography at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, which he headed until 1992. In 2000, he was awarded The Israel Prize for Visual Arts.

Exhibition Organization and Catalog

Micha Bar-Am: 1967 is curated by Noam Gal, Horace and Grace Goldsmith Curator of Photography in the Noel and Harriette Levine Department of Photography. The exhibition is accompanied by a catalog including all works on display and an essay by the curator in both Hebrew and English.

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

The Israel Museum is the largest cultural institution in the State of Israel and is ranked among the leading art and archaeology museums in the world. Founded in 1965, the Museum houses encyclopedic collections ranging from prehistory through contemporary art and includes the most extensive holdings of Biblical and Holy Land archaeology in the world, among them the Dead Sea Scrolls. Over its first 50 years, the Museum has built a far-ranging collection of more than 500,000 objects through an unparalleled legacy of gifts and support from its circle of patrons worldwide.

The Museum's 20-acre campus, which underwent a comprehensive renewal in 2010 designed by James Carpenter Design Associates and Efrat-Kowalsky Architects, features the Billy Rose Art Garden, the Shrine of the Book, and more than 225,000 square feet of collection, gallery, and temporary exhibition space. The Museum also organizes programming at its off-site locations in Jerusalem at the Rockefeller Archaeological Museum, where it presents archaeological artifacts from the ancient Land of Israel; and at its historic Ticho House, a venue for exhibitions of contemporary Israeli art.

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