

**INSTALLATION BY ARTIST SIGALIT LANDAU TO BE ON VIEW AS PART OF  
MoMA'S ELAINE DANNHEISSER PROJECTS SERIES**

***Projects 87: Sigalit Landau***

March 19–July 28, 2008

Contemporary Galleries, second floor

**New York, March 18, 2008**—For ***Projects 87: Sigalit Landau***, The Museum of Modern Art presents *Cycle Spun* (2007), a three-channel video installation that was recently acquired for the collection, by artist Sigalit Landau (b. Israel, 1969). The videos—*DeadSee* (2005), *Barbed Hula* (2000), and *Day Done* (2007)—each depict a performative act of spinning or circular motion, set against a landscape in Landau's native Israel. The works can be viewed as either a triptych or a trilogy shown simultaneously. On view March 19 through July 28, 2008, the exhibition is part of the Museum's ongoing Elaine Dannheisser Projects Series and is organized by Klaus Biesenbach, Chief Curator, Department of Media, The Museum of Modern Art. The newly titled Elaine Dannheisser Projects Series is named after the Museum's late trustee who was a great supporter of contemporary art. The Elaine Dannheisser Foundation has been a key sponsor of the Projects series for many years.

"Over the last decade, Sigalit Landau has explored her native country with performative, sculptural, and video works. The project conceived for MoMA brings together these elements in an installation visually connected by circular forms that evoke a multilayered field of imagery. Barbed wire forms a hula-hoop around the artist's torso, barbed wire submerged in the Dead Sea is covered with salt crystals, a spiral of watermelons in the Dead Sea serves as a backdrop for her body, and the act of painting circles around a window in her Tel Aviv studio is seemingly endless," states Mr. Biesenbach.

In the wall-sized projection *DeadSee*, a cord connects 500 green watermelons, creating a 19-foot (six meter) spiral-shaped raft on the salt-saturated waters of the Dead Sea. Secured within this sculptural configuration, Landau floats with an arm outstretched toward a collection of the fruits that have been cut, revealing an intense red flesh. The floating raft gradually unfurls, leaving the surface of the water nearly monochromatic blue, and the artist's body exposed.

For *Barbed Hula*, a ring of barbed wire makes continual revolutions around the artist's bare torso. The barbs graze her flesh, compromising the integrity of her body. Enacted on the Mediterranean coast at sunrise, her body movements echo the rhythm of the waves in a ritualistic repetition.

*Day Done* reinterprets an ancient Jewish custom in which an isolated area of a newly built house is intentionally left unpainted or unfinished to symbolize the remembrance of destruction. The video documents an inverse gesture—the painting of a circle around a window from inside the house, marking it first with a black stain and then, as night falls, tracing over the mark in white.

In addition to the three videos that make up *Cycle Spun*, the gallery is lit by *Barbed Salt Lamps* (2007), a cluster of handcrafted barbed-wire objects that hover like clouds of chandeliers overhead. These works have been repeatedly submerged in the Dead Sea and dried in the desert sun, resulting in a multilayered, crystalline glaze through which they emit a frosted glow.

Sigalit Landau studied at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem. In 1997, she represented the Israeli Pavilion at the Venice Biennale and participated in documenta X. Past solo exhibitions include *The Dining Hall* at KW (Kunst-Werke) Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin (2007); *Treading Water* at Ballroom Marfa, Texas (2005); *The Endless Solution* at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2004); and *CARS* at Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid (2004). She has participated in such international group exhibitions as *Global Feminisms* at the Brooklyn Museum (2007); *Into Me/Out of Me* at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, KW (Kunst-Werke), and MACRO in Rome (2006); *The Raft of the Medusa* at the National Museum Warsaw (2006); and *The Ten Commandments* at the Deutsches Hygiene-Museum in Dresden (2004).

#### **ABOUT THE CURATOR:**

Klaus Biesenbach, Chief Curator, Department of Media, has organized many exhibitions at MoMA and at P.S.1. At MoMA, he co-organized *Doug Aitken: sleepwalkers* (2007), and organized *Douglas Gordon: Timeline* (2006). At P.S.1, he organized *Fassbinder: Berlin Alexanderplatz* (2007), *Into Me/Out of Me* (2006), *Mexico City: An Exhibition About the Exchange Rate of Bodies and Values* (2002), *Loop* (2001), and *Disasters of War* (2000), all of which traveled internationally, and co-organized *Greater New York* (2000 and 2005). He is currently preparing, with Roxana Marcoci, Curator, Department of Photography, a survey of Olafur Eliasson's work, scheduled to open at MoMA and P.S.1 in April 2008, which will be an expansion of the exhibition that was circulated by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and organized there by Madeleine Grynsztejn. Mr. Biesenbach is the founding director of KW (Kunst-Werke) Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin, where he organized numerous projects with artists including Dan Graham, Carsten Höller, Taryn Simon, and Paul Pfeiffer, among others.

#### **ABOUT THE ELAINE DANNHEISSER PROJECTS SERIES**

Created in 1971 as a forum for emerging artists and new art, the Elaine Dannheisser Projects series plays a vital part in MoMA's contemporary art programs. With exhibitions organized by curators from all of the Museum's curatorial departments, the series has presented the work of close to 200 artists to date. For further information on the series, including a listing of all Projects artists, please visit [www.moma.org/projects](http://www.moma.org/projects).

#### **SPONSORSHIP:**

The Elaine Dannheisser Projects Series is made possible in part by The Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art and the JA Endowment Committee.

Additional funding for this exhibition is provided by artis.

**Press Contact:**

Kim Donica, 212/708-9752 or kim\_donica@moma.org

**For high-resolution images, please register on our press office Web site:  
[www.moma.org/press](http://www.moma.org/press).**

**Public Information:**

**The Museum of Modern Art**

**Hours:**

**Museum Admission:**

11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019

Wednesday - Monday: 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday: 10:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

\$20 adults; \$16 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; \$12 full-time students with current I.D. Free, members and children 16 and under.

(Includes admittance to Museum galleries and film programs)

Target Free Friday Nights 4:00-8:00 p.m.

**Subway:**

**Bus:**

E or V train to Fifth Avenue/53rd Street

On Fifth Avenue, take the M1, M2, M3, M4, or M5 to 53rd Street. On Sixth Avenue, take the M5, M6, or M7 to 53rd Street. Or take the M57 and M50 crosstown buses on 57th and 50th Streets.

The public may call 212/708-9400 for Museum information. Visit us on the Web at [www.moma.org](http://www.moma.org).