



**AYA BEN RON - FIELD HOSPITAL X**

**Curator: 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 Pavillion 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

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## Organizers

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