



Israel-Palestine Symposium 2021

Challenging
Narratives:
Seeking Hope

7 Sundays between
July 11 - August 29



שותפים
PARTNERS
FOR PROGRESSIVE ISRAEL

Photo Credit: Gili Getz



Meet young Israeli & Palestinian activists.

Dialogue with Knesset members.

Visit Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem & a Bedouin Camp.

Discover NGOs working for social justice, equality & peace.

Enjoy artists who are creative agents of peace.

Explore how Israelis & Palestinians envision the future.

We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere.

*When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. **Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must - at that moment - become the center of the universe.***

— Elie Wiesel



The time is now.

In recent weeks, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has escalated devastatingly and ended in another ceasefire. Many of us are left with the same question: what can we do individually and collectively— Jews, Arabs, Israelis, Palestinians—now? How can we be supportive and empower collective justice?

What does the future look like in this land that both peoples—Israeli and Palestinian—call home?

The time is now to learn, to ask questions, to challenge, to speak up, to heal. **The time is now to listen; to hear the story of the Other.**



Boy with Pail in Palestinian Village Susya, Credit: Gili Getz



General Information

The Israel-Palestine Symposium will take place via Zoom over twelve, two-hour sessions (from 11am – 1pm ET & 1:30pm – 3:30pm ET) on seven Sundays:

- July 11
- July 18
- July 25
- August 8
- August 15
- August 22
- **August 29:**
Bonus Session

Pre-Symposium Film: All attendees who register by July 10 will receive a link to watch a pre-Symposium film about the Israeli-Palestinian struggle: [The Tinderbox](#), soon to be released. This sneak preview film will be available **Monday, July 5 - Saturday, July 10** to view at leisure. On July 8 there was an interview/Q&A with the director, Gillian Mosely, and moderator Isaac Zablocki (Director of the [Other Israel](#) Film Festival at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan).

Post-Symposium Film: A post-Symposium screening of [The Ruins of Lifta](#) will be made available to all attendees from **Thursday August 19 - Thursday August 26** to view at leisure. Also included will be a **Q&A session** with the director, Menachem Daum, along with Prof. Daphna Golan, PhD, coordinator of the Save Lifta coalition on **Thursday, August 26** at 12:30pm ET.

To allow for substantive discussion, each session will be limited to 50 participants and will be divided as follows:

- 45-minute presentations by the invited guest speakers
- 45-minute direct Q&A conversation with the speakers
- 30-minute discussion among Symposium participants

Our Digital Symposium in 2020 included meetings with individuals from:

- Ajyal Youth Movement
- A Land for All
- Association of Ethiopian Jews
- Breaking the Silence
- Combatants for Peace
- Gaza Vision 2050
- Gisha
- Givat Haviva Center for Equality and Shared Society
- Hiddush
- Israel Women's Network
- Israel Religious Action Center
- Kelman Institute for Conflict Transformation
- Mossawa Center
- Other Voice
- Palestinian Negotiations Support Project
- Physicians for Human Rights Israel
- Roots
- Second Nurture
- Standing Together
- Terrestrial Jerusalem
- Together Beyond Words
- Umm al-Fahm Art Gallery
- WEDO - Water and Environmental Organization



Thank you to our Sponsors!

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The 2021 Israel-Palestine Symposium costs are greater than these fees will cover. Support this important and timely program by [becoming a Sponsor today](#).

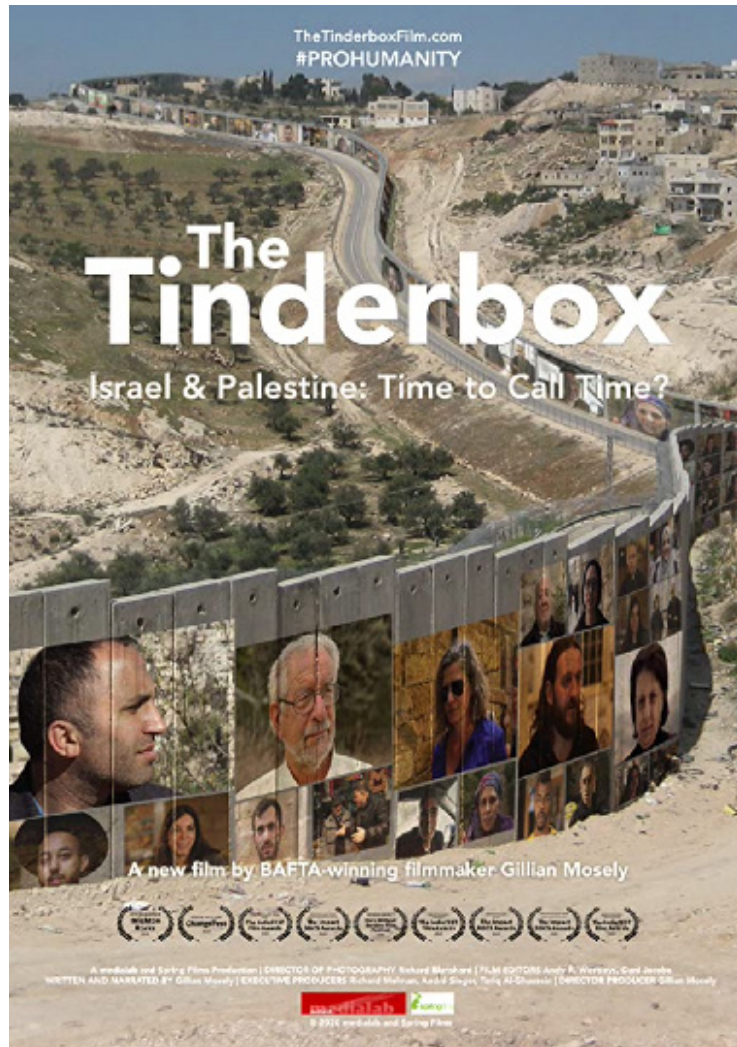
As a Sponsor, you can attend all 12 Symposium sessions, the 2 bonus sessions plus watch the 2 films. **You will also be acknowledged at each session, in our promotional materials, e-blasts, social media and on our website!**



Credit: Gili Getz



Pre-Symposium Film



A thought-provoking examination of both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, from its catalyst to why it still rages, to what needs to happen for it to stop.

The Tinderbox combines ancient and more recent history, geopolitical problems (racism, inequality, immigration and fake truths), with the deeply personal journey of the director, Gillian Mosely. She is forced to challenge everything she was taught about the conflict in Israel and Palestine.

The film provides context and shows how history continues to play out in people's daily lives on all sides, empowering audiences to look at conditions with new eyes.



Sunday, July 11, 2021

Visit to the Knesset

Session #1: 11am - 1pm ET

VOICES FROM THE GOVERNING COALITION (SOLD OUT)

Panelists: MK Saeed Alkharumi (Ra'am); MK Gilad Kariv (Labor); MK Ali Salahah (Meretz); MK Ghaida Rinawie Zoabi (Meretz)

Moderators: Leonard Grob (Vice President, PPI) Karen Shapiro (Vice President, PPI)

We will visit with members of the Knesset who represent parties in the current coalition. We will ask them for their views on some of the key issues of the day and how these views attest to their vision for the future of Israel. Among the issues to be explored: a path to peace with the Palestinians; the future of settlements on the West Bank; challenges to Israeli democracy; and equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel in light of the 2018 Nation-State Bill.



Session #2: 1:30pm - 3:30pm ET

VOICES FROM THE LEFT: SHOULD THE FUTURE INCLUDE A JEWISH-ARAB PARTY?

Panelists: Dani Filc (Standing Together); Dov Khenin (Former MK, Hadash); MK Mossi Raz (Meretz); Maha Karkabi Sabbah (Ben Gurion University)

Moderators: Leonard Grob (Vice President, PPI) Karen Shapiro (Vice President, PPI)

The left-leaning Labor party, headed initially by David Ben-Gurion, governed Israel for nearly the first three decades of its existence. Since that time, with brief interludes, right-wing governments have held sway. Today's left in Israel is weaker than at any time in its history. At this same moment, representatives of Arab parties have come to play an increasingly important role in decisions regarding Israel's leadership. Several Knesset members and political analysts on the left believe that only a Jewish-Arab party—one based on full equality—can bring the left to power. Discussions on the ground have been held on such an initiative. Others see creation of such a party as unrealistic; if it was actually formed, it would be unable to breathe new life into the left. We will hear from speakers representing various positions regarding the current debate.



Sunday, July 18, 2021

Can Israel be Both Jewish and Democratic?

Session #3: 11am - 1pm ET

LIVING WITH THE NATION-STATE LAW AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION: VOICES FROM PALESTINIAN CITIZENS OF ISRAEL

Panelists: Mohammad Darawshe (Givat Haviva); Jafar Farah (Mossawa Center); MK Gabi Lasky (Meretz)

Moderator: Gili Getz (Vice President, PPI)

Palestinian citizens of Israel will be invited to speak about discrimination in their daily lives. Questions will be asked including how Israel, as the State of the Jewish People, can realize full equality for all its citizens. Can there truly be an Israel that is a “shared society?” Speakers will address, among other Israeli laws and practices, the 2018 Nation-State Bill, that claims: “the right to exercise national self-determination” in Israel “is unique to the Jewish people.” Our presenters will reflect on whether the current lack of equal rights for the Palestinian citizens of Israel is something that can be remedied or whether there is an inherent contradiction between Israel serving as both a fully democratic and a Jewish state. We will also ask about the ramifications of downgrading the status of the Arabic language. An Israeli Jewish presenter will offer her views on the Nation-State Law as well.

Session #4: 1:30pm - 3:30pm ET

THE GROWTH OF THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT IN ISRAEL: A THREAT TO A DEMOCRATIC ISRAEL?

Panelists: Prof. Rachel Elijor (Hebrew University); Tomer Persico (Shalom Hartman Institute); Leah Shakdiel (Religious Feminist); Uri Zaki (Founder, The Front/Chairperson of Meretz Executive Board)

Moderator: Gili Getz (Vice President, PPI)



Credit: Daniel Dimitrov

Israel has become increasingly religious; the demographics alone portend a future in which the influence of the religious right will undoubtedly strengthen. We will hear from speakers who regard some positions taken by the growing religious right as threats to Israeli democracy, including mandated exposure to Jewish religious teachings and practices both within the IDF and within State schools, as well as the nearly three quarters-of-a-

century dominance of the Orthodox Rabbinate over life-passage events. Also to be explored is a counter movement: the growing influence of Reform and Conservative Judaism, which envisions a future where religious matters are no longer subject to the sole authority of the Rabbinate.



Sunday, July 25, 2021

Occupation and Displacement

Session #5: 11am - 1pm ET

VISITS TO SITES OF A DEEPENING OCCUPATION & DISPLACEMENT: SHEIKH JARRAH IN EAST JERUSALEM AND AL ARAQIB IN THE NEGEV

*Panelists: Aziz Al-Tory, (Resident of Al Araqib, Bedouin village in the Negev);
Daniel Seidemann on Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem*

Moderator: Leonard Grob (Vice President, PPI)

If one were to ask where they could visit prime sites of Israel's deepening occupation, one might first respond by pointing to a district in East Jerusalem—Sheikh Jarrah—marked by the growing eviction of Palestinians by Israeli Jewish settlers who move into their emptied homes. Evictions in Sheikh Jarrah contributed to a list of several provocations leading to the outbreak of the recent Gaza War. One might then suggest visiting the Bedouin village of Al Araqib, repeatedly demolished by the Israeli government and rebuilt by its remaining Palestinian residents. Although Al Araqib is located within Israel rather than in the West Bank, it can be understood to suffer from a similar pattern of forced displacement of Palestinians in order to have a property in question set aside for Jews. We will visit these two sites and hear from speakers intimately familiar with the eviction process.



Sheikh Jarrah Demonstration

Session #6: 1:30pm - 3:30pm ET

HOW DOES THE OCCUPATION ERODE DEMOCRACY WITHIN THE GREEN LINE?

*Panelists: Adi Granot (Annexation Project Manager, Zulat); Gideon Levy
(Columnist, Haaretz); Hagit Ofran (Settlement Watch, Peace Now)*

Moderator: Leonard Grob (Vice President, PPI)

Many Israelis believe that Israel cannot be an occupier without the occupation turning back upon itself and effecting what is happening within the Green Line. We will invite speakers from NGOs dedicated to the preservation of Israeli democracy to weigh in on this subject. Discussion topics may include attacks on the independence of the Supreme Court; attempts to prohibit funding of liberal NGOs by foreign governments; and the outlawing of school visits by organizations “whose activity contradicts in a significant and serious manner the objectives of state education.”



Sunday, August 8, 2021

Peacemaking through Environmental Activism and the Arts

Session #7: 11am - 1pm ET

RESOLVING THE CONFLICT WHILE HEALING THE EARTH

Introduction: Tamar Zandberg (Minister of Environmental Protection)

Panelists: Gidon Bromberg (Director, EcoPeace Israel); Nada Majdalani (Director, EcoPeace Palestine); Yana Abu Talab (Director, EcoPeace Jordan)

Moderator: Karen Shapiro (Vice President, PPI)

We will invite speakers from environmental groups that include both Israeli and Palestinian participants to reflect on the challenges of a shared environment and the implications of such joint work on peacemaking. They will address threats to the environment and talk about their everyday experiences in working together. Among the issues to be explored: an equitable distribution of water resources and a range of transboundary projects that address preservation of natural resources and biodiversity threatened by pollution that knows no borders.

Session #8: 1:30pm - 3:30pm ET

ARTISTS AS AGENTS OF PEACE

Panelists: Ayman Helou (Combatants for Peace Theater Group); Liat Shabtai (Combatants for Peace Theater Group); Israel Wizer (Combatants for Peace Theater Group); Eid Suleman (Sculptor)

Moderator: Karen Shapiro (Vice President, PPI)

The arts play a vital role in creating hope and understanding between Israelis and Palestinians; the arts can speak to audiences in ways that discursive speech cannot. Israeli and Palestinian artists often include conflict resolution in their work. We will meet some of these artists and learn first-hand how their work leads toward reconciliation between the two peoples.



Jerusalem Art Shelter Gallery, Credit: יויד הרשוא



Sunday, August 15, 2021

Settlers and Resisters

Session #9: 11am - 1pm ET

VISITS WITH TWO SETTLERS ON THE WEST BANK

Panelists: Michal Froman; Myron Joshua; Rabbi Yakov Nagen (Yeshiva of Otniel in the West Bank)

Moderator: Sam Fleischacker (Board Member, PPI)

It is important for those who wish to understand what is happening in Israel and Palestine to know more about the settler community. Of course, the more than 600,000 settlers on the West Bank and East Jerusalem do not speak in one voice. Some have decided to settle in the Territories to benefit from economic incentives; many—mainly Haredim—have settled where they were informed there is room for their large families; and many have come for nationalist/religious reasons. We will visit three settlers who have come, as Jews, for ideological reasons, but whose understanding of what the tradition calls for differs in some respects.

Session #10: 1:30pm - 3:30pm ET

REFUSING MILITARY SERVICE: RESISTERS AND THEIR CRITICS SPEAK OUT

Panelists: Hillel Garmi; Ishai Menuchin; Avshalom (Abu) Vilan

Moderator: Sam Fleischacker (Board Member, PPI)

Refuseniks will speak about their decision to refuse service in the IDF. Those objecting to military service have different reasons for their refusal, including those who only refuse to serve in the occupied territories. We will also invite a speaker, identified in some measure with centrist camp in Israel, who will argue for the obligation to serve in the IDF.





Sunday, August 22, 2021

Hearing Human Rights Abuse **from the Ground Up**

Session #11: 11am - 1pm ET

TRANSFORMING SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES: PEACEMAKING & RECONCILIATION

Panelists: Bassam Aramin (Parent's Circle - Families Forum); Robi Damelin (Parent's Circle - Families Forum); Tuly Flint (Combatants for Peace); Ahmed Helou (Combatants for Peace)

Moderator: Rabbi Andrea London (Board Member, PPI)

This session brings together two NGOs that exemplify Israelis and Palestinians working together to break the cycle of violence afflicting the region for almost a century. Combatants for Peace models a bi-national community of those who at one time stood opposed to one another on the battlefield, now active in the joint struggle for peaceful coexistence based on two sovereign states. The Parents Circle—Families Forum consists of more than 600 Israeli and Palestinian families who have paid the ultimate price in living amidst violent conflict: the loss of a close family member. Refusing to take the path of revenge, members of the Circle speak in pairs about the need both to reach a political agreement now in order to end the violence but also to embark on the longer-range work of reconciliation that will make peace sustainable.

Session #12: 1:30pm - 3:30pm ET

LIFE UNDER OCCUPATION AND THE HEALING WORKERS

Panelists: Rami Aman (Palestinian Peace Activist & Journalist in Gaza); Hannah Barag (Machsom [Checkpoint] Watch); Mazin Qumsiyeh (Palestinian Author in the West Bank); Judith Ronen (A Road to Recovery)

Moderator: Rabbi Andrea London (Board Member, PPI)

We will visit with ordinary Palestinian citizens living under occupation. (Though Israel withdrew its settlers from Gaza in 2005, it maintains control of most entrances and exits via land, as well as those by sea and air. *Our digital symposium allows us access to Gaza that would otherwise be denied*). We will hear about the roadblocks—both literal and figurative—that permeate the day to day lives of Palestinians. We will focus on two major instances of human rights abuse: checkpoints, which constitute a case study in the workings of the occupation; and the daily trials of ordinary Palestinians denied the right to move about freely, sometimes reaching a critical point when emergencies in the healthcare arena occur. Issues surrounding the accessibility of healthcare to Palestinians—especially with regard to vaccinations—will also be explored.



Checkpoint in Ramallah



Sunday, August 29, 2021

The Future Envisioned: Ideas for Confederation & Key Remaining Questions

Session #13: 11am - 1pm ET

TWO STATES, WITH A DIFFERENCE: PEACE VIA CONFEDERATION

Panelists: Al Abu Awad (A Land for All); Muhammed Beiruti (A Land for All); May Pundak (A Land for All); Meron Rapoport (A Land for All)

Moderators: Leonard Grob (Vice President, PPI); Karen Shapiro (Vice President, PPI)

Several varieties of the two-state solution exist. Some people advocate for strict separation (i.e., hard borders); others have different ideas. We will hear from members of the NGO *A Land for All* that advocates for two sovereignties within one homeland. In other words, there would be two states with two governments, but borders would be permeable in the sense that Israelis and Palestinians would be free to move about the entire land from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River. Some confederation advocates speak of freedom for members of each people to reside within either sovereignty. We will explore these ideas for peace in depth with representatives of the leading NGO advocating for confederation.



Israeli Soldiers in Hebron, Credit: Justin McIntosh

**Session #14: 1:30pm - 3:30pm ET
(BONUS SESSION for Full Program Participants & Sponsors)**

PARTICIPANTS' VOICES ENGAGE ISRAELI & PALESTINIAN LEADERS

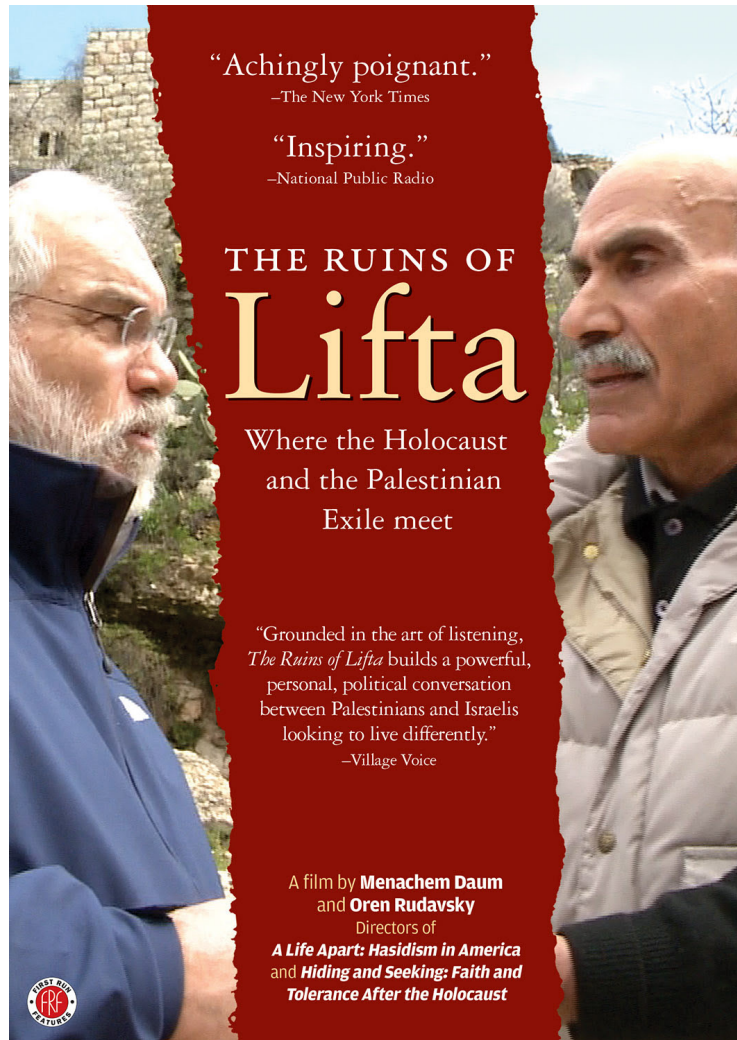
Panelists: Hillel Schenker (Co-editor, Palestine-Israel Journal); Ziad Abu Zayyad (Co-editor, Palestine-Israel Journal)

Moderators: Leonard Grob (Vice President, PPI); Karen Shapiro (Vice President, PPI)

Having spent many hours together over a seven-week period, Symposium participants will have a unique opportunity during this final session to bring our new knowledge to bear in dialogue with leading Israelis and Palestinians. We will first ask ourselves what most important questions remain to be asked regarding all that we have heard during our weeks together. We'll then have the chance to pose queries to several Israeli and Palestinian leaders in the region. Although we have had the chance to ask questions throughout the course of the Symposium, this final session will allow participants to focus on the issues that have become or still remain the most vital to them.



Post-Symposium Film



Lifta, on the outskirts of Jerusalem, is the only Arab village abandoned in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war that has not been completely destroyed or repopulated by Jews. Its ruins are now threatened by an Israeli development plan that would convert it into an upscale Jewish neighborhood.

Filmmaker Menachem Daum—an Orthodox Jew from Brooklyn—sets out to discover the story behind the headlines in [The Ruins of Lifta](#). He meets Yacoub, a Palestinian who was expelled from Lifta and now leads the struggle to save the haunting ruins of his village from Israeli plans to build luxury villas on the site. Learning that Lifta was once a place where Jews and Arabs got along, Menachem joins Yacoub’s campaign in the hopes that Lifta can serve as a place of reflection and reconciliation. This leads to a climactic encounter between a Holocaust survivor and a Nakba refugee amidst the ruins of Lifta.



Registration Information

*Space is limited to 50 participants per session.
We recommend signing up early to secure your spot!*

FULL PROGRAM (SOLD OUT)

\$180 - All 12 sessions (2 sessions/day on 6 days) + 2 bonus day sessions + 2 films

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS

\$20 - each session (also includes both films)

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

The 2021 Israel-Palestine Symposium costs are greater than these fees will cover. Support this important and timely program by becoming a Sponsor today.

As a Sponsor, you can attend all 12 Symposium sessions, the 2 bonus sessions plus watch the 2 films. You will also be acknowledged at each session, in our promotional materials, e-blasts, social media and on our website!

\$15,000 - Founder's Circle

\$10,000 - Producer's Circle

\$5,000 - Patron's Circle

\$3,000 - Advocate's Circle

\$1,000 - Leadership Circle

\$500 - Friendship Circle

VIDEO RECORDINGS

Unable to attend the live sessions? You can register to watch **private video recordings of the full program, or for individual sessions!** The recordings will be available the day after the live session ends.

\$100 - All 12 sessions + 2 bonus day sessions

\$10 - each individual session

PRE & POST-SYMPOSIUM FILMS

Sign up for the full program or for any individual session by July 5 and receive access to *The Tinderbox*, our pre-symposium film. All registrants will also have access to view our post-Symposium film, *The Ruins of Lifta*.