

The Power of Art: A New Dimension of National Strength



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The Power of Political Art
The 16th Annual Herzliya Conference

June 15, 2016

What do you think is the impact of art such as:



Free Samer Issawi - Shahd Abusalama



Freedom - Mohammed Joha



For The Sake of The Sun - Shahd Abusalama



Sand Sculpture - Osama Spitah



Palestinian Art

Sources:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/shahd_abusalama/
<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20160303-a-palestinian-artist-making-a-living-through-sand-sculpting/>
<http://theculturetrip.com/middle-east/palestinian-territories/articles/resilience-and-light-contemporary-palestinian-art-exhibition/>

What is the impact of such art when augmented with the propaganda art, cartoons and ads?



Petar Pismestrovic, Austria



Zeon



Stuttart, Germany



Ad in a New York Metro Station

Literature and Academia

Mahmoud Darwish

1942–2008

www.poetryfoundation.org



Palestinian Mahmoud Darwish was born in al-Birwa in Galilee, a village that was occupied and later razed by the Israeli army. Because they had missed the official Israeli census, Darwish and his family were considered “internal refugees” or “present-absent aliens.” Darwish lived

for many years in exile in Beirut and Paris. He is the author of over 30 books of poetry and eight books of prose, and earned the Lannan

Cultural Freedom Prize from the Lannan Foundation, the Lenin Peace Prize, and the Knight of Arts and Belles Lettres Medal from France.

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Palestine shines in global literature prizes

Sarah Irving | Arts and Culture | 21 October 2014

SARAH IRVING

Sarah is a freelance writer and editor, author of a biography of Leila Khaled and of the Bradt Guide to Palestine, co-editor of *A Bird is Not a Stone* (a volume of Palestinian poetry translated into the languages of Scotland), and a PhD candidate at the University of Edinburgh. She has worked and traveled in Palestine since 2001.



- Twitter
- Personal website



Play focused on Gaza woman turns despair into hope
Sarah Irving 3 November 2015



Painter Fouad Agbaria reclaims symbols of Palestine's survival
Sarah Irving 29 October 2015



Darwish (pictured) has been translated by the award-winning Kareem James Abu Zeid.

Palestinian writers has been celebrated by the organizers of two international literary

[the Zayed Prize](#) — an Arabic culture award — features three Palestinian writers.



Hundreds of UK scholars pledge to boycott Israeli universities
Sarah Irving 27 October 2015

What do you think is the impact of news such as:

Roger Waters defends York U anti-Israel painting

'Freedom of speech is a fundamental right and not for sale to the likes of you,' he tells Paul Bronfman.

DIASPORA

Anti-Israel graffiti found defacing UK campus after ambassador's visit



IRAN

Iran opens anti-Israel cartoon contest

Organizers have said the cartoon contest does not attempt to "confirm or deny" the Holocaust, but rather highlight a "new Holocaust" against Palestinians. The Iranian government has distanced itself from the exhibit.

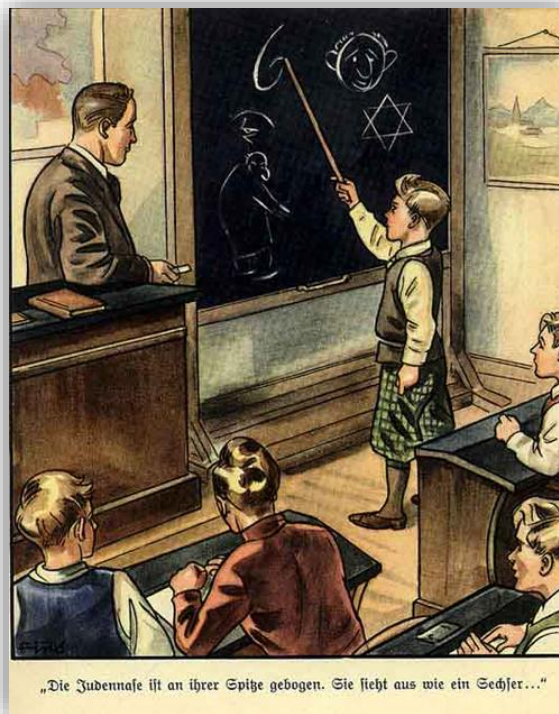
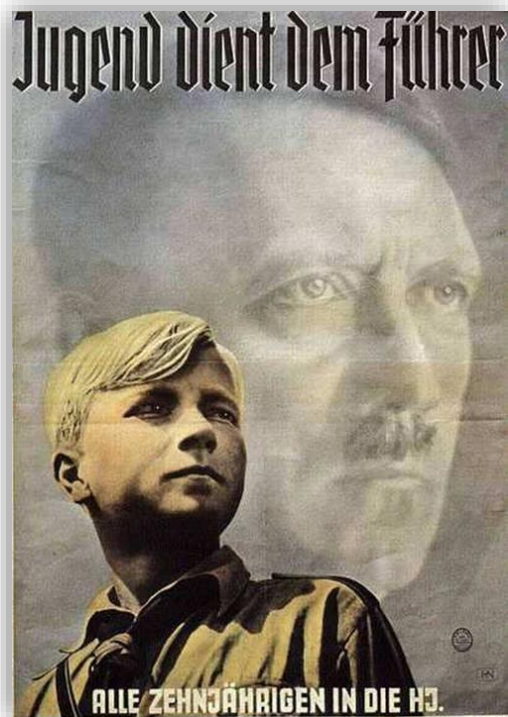
And there is a long history of the use of art as
a political weapon...



Artist: S. M. Karpov



Soviet Union



Gestalt und Wandel des Reiches - S. M. Karpov



Nazi Germany



***Guernica* -
Picasso**



The History of Mexico (1929-1935)



Agrarian Leader Zapata (1931)

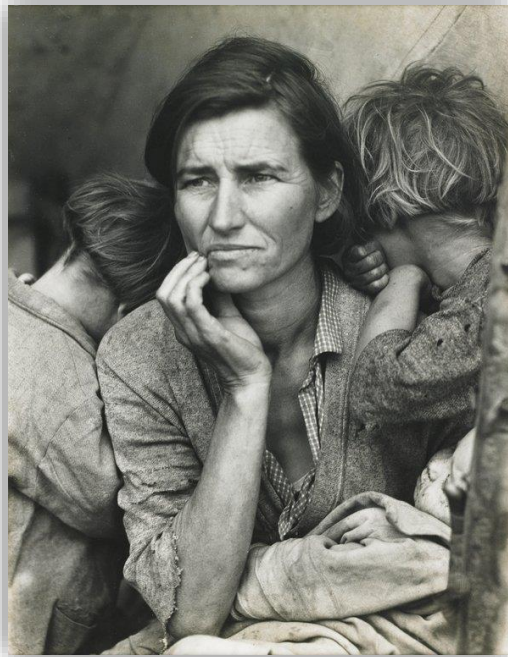


Dance in Tehuantepec (1928)



The Flower Carrier (1935)

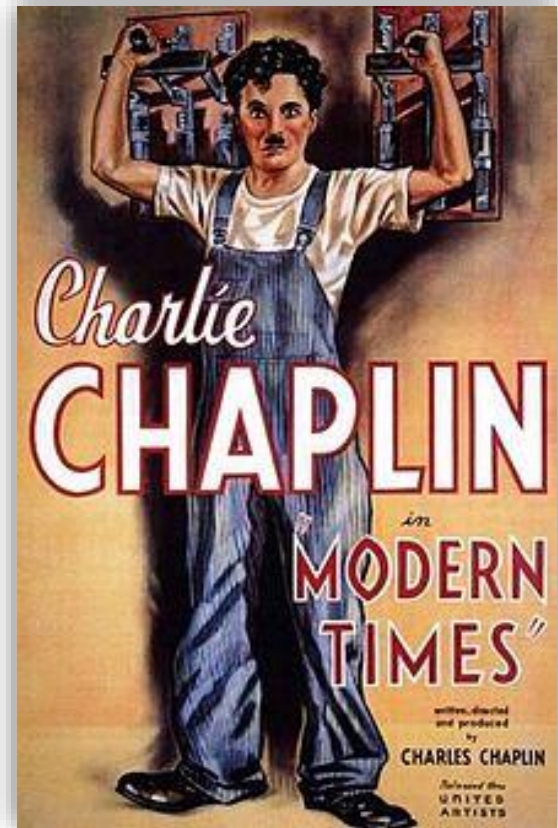
Diego Rivera



Dorothea Lange, "Migrant Mother" (1936)



James E. Allen, *Prayer for Rain* (1938)



The Great Depression

What is the impact of the anti-Israeli art on the world's public opinion of Israel?

Does it matter in determining...

- perceptions?
- preferences?
- intended and actual behavior?

Can we do something about it without resorting to censorship?



DON'T BLOCK



AD BLOCKERS

While we may be skeptical, my answer is **Yes**.

First, let's monitor the anti and pro-Israel art and use it as a measure of our national strength.



Philip Ak Brown

16 hrs · 🌐

Awful testimony about [Palestine](#) children and [Israel](#) behavior



Australian film 'Stone Cold Justice' on [Israel](#)'s torture of Palestinian children

A film which has been produced by a group of Australian journalists has sparked an international outcry against [Israel](#) after it explicitly detailed Tel Aviv's...

VIMEO.COM | BY CHERIE22579



Rage, Flower Thrower by Banksy in Bethlehem in the West Bank



Sameer Halat @SameerHalat · 30 May 2015
"Rage, Flower Thrower" by Banksy in Bethlehem in the West Bank [#Israel](#) [#Palestine](#) [#WestBank](#) [#graffiti](#) [#urban](#) [#art](#) #...



Mr. Merrill @Merrill_Art · 10 Dec 2015
For [#HumanRightsDay](#) we revisit [#Banksy](#) and his 2007 visit to [#Israel](#)/[#Palestine](#). goo.gl/WBJ2rT [#streetart](#)

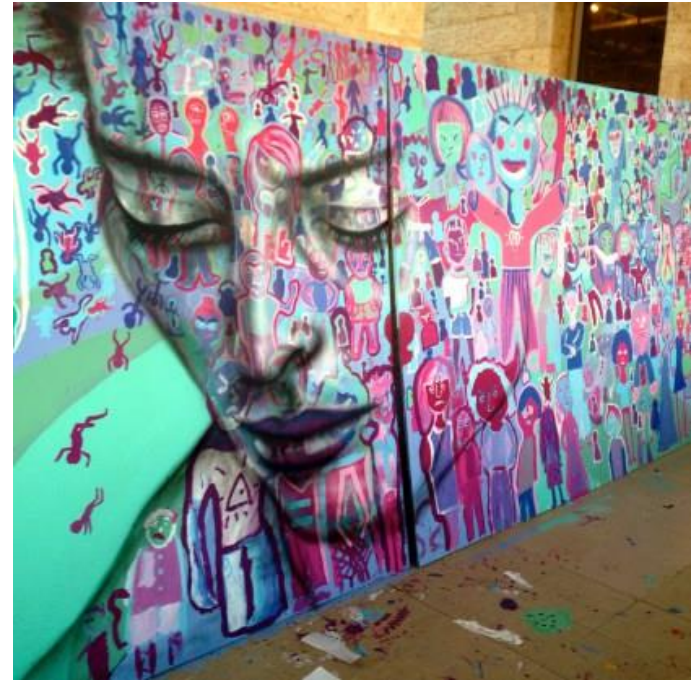
For [#HumanRightsDay](#) we revisit [#Banksy](#) and his 2007 visit to [#Israel](#)/[#Palestine](#)

Second, Create an ecosystem and incentives conducive to cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian artists.

Focus on what the relationship between Israel and Palestine could and should be.



Festival of Festivals brings together Arab and Israeli artists.

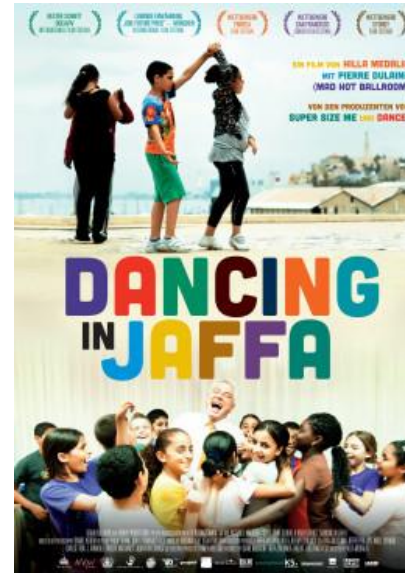


Painted in Jerusalem by Arab and Jewish youth and artists Joel Bergner and Max Frieder

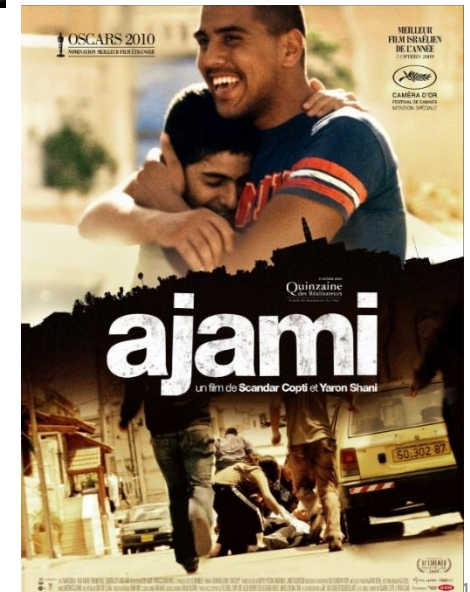
How to leverage and enhance initiatives such as:



"Quiet," a production by Palestinian and Israeli performers about the conflict



A documentary about Israeli and Palestinian children learning ballroom dance together



Film about a religiously mixed community in Tel Aviv produced by a Palestinian & Israeli team



WHITEFLAG PROJECT

Musical collaboration group brings together Israeli and Arab artists

Third, Create a mechanism to disseminate and use the resulting collaborative art as a model.



Aslan Media July 22, 2013 · 🌐

United by "facial hair, frayed jeans and a love of belief that music is above politics, religion and forces."

"Israeli band Orphaned Land is joining forces with Khalas to take a message of coexistence through Europe."



Israeli And Palestinian Bands Unite In 'Metal Brotherhood' - Aslan Media

Aslan Media brings you news and information about the Middle East and its Diaspora communities globally. From politics, to art and culture, faith, citizen...

ASLANMEDIA.COM

Monde par la main/ Give a Hand shared Joel Bergner's photo.
May 26, 2015 · 🌐

What great work [Joel Bergner](#) and [Max Levi Frieder](#) of Artolution are doing out there in Jerusalem. A great Artventure between all these youth of various faith and backgrounds. Love it!

Quel travail formidable de Joel Bergner et Max Levi Frieder de Artolution a Jerusalem en Israel avec des jeunes de différents horizons. Magnifique! On aime!



Joel Bergner in 📍 Jerusalem, Israel.
May 26, 2015 · 🌐

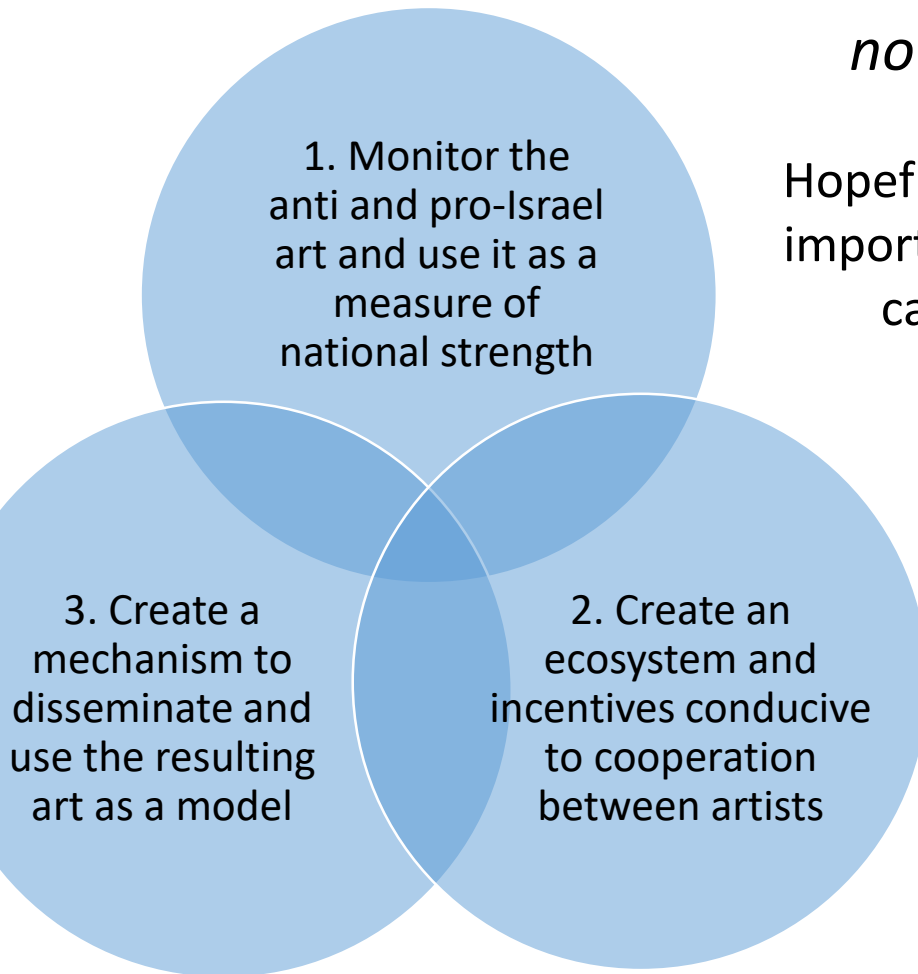
This is the result of a collaboration between youth of various backgrounds-- Muslim, Jewish, Christian-- at the Hand in Hand School in Jerusalem. To give you an...

[See More](#)

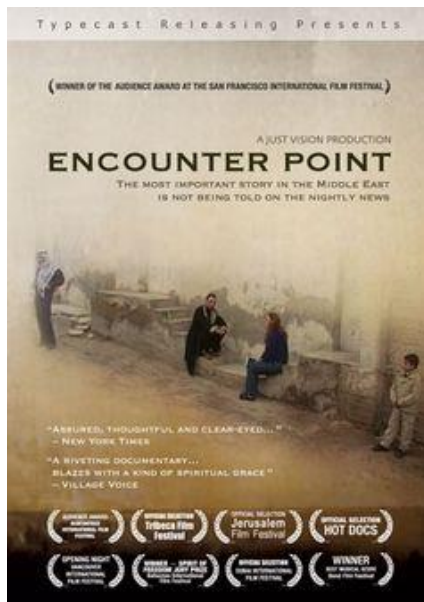
Moving Forward...

What other ideas have we learned from our key note speaker and panelists?

Hopefully we all realize the power of art as an important dimension of national strength and can focus on what each of us can do:



- enhance the POWER OF ART to enrich our lives
- lead to the desired social transformation
- to improve the image of Israel around the world
- and ideally move toward a solution to the current conflict



Encounter Point is an 85-minute feature documentary film that follows a former Israeli settler, a Palestinian ex-prisoner, a bereaved Israeli mother and a wounded Palestinian bereaved brother who risk their lives and public standing to promote a nonviolent end to the conflict. Their journeys lead them to the unlikely places to confront hatred within their communities. The film explores what drives them and thousands of other like-minded civilians to overcome anger and grief to work for grassroots solutions. It is a film about the everyday leaders in our midst.

Encounter Point's Israeli/Palestinian/North American/Brazilian production team includes: director & producer Ronit Avni (formerly of WITNESS), co-director Julia Bacha (co-writer/editor of the award-winning documentary, Control Room), producers Nahanni Rous and Joline Makhlof, the first Palestinian female pilot. *Encounter Point* was edited in Jerusalem and Park Slope, Brooklyn, and features original music by Kareem Roustom, who combines classical Arabic melodies and instruments with traditional Jewish Klezmer to form a harmonious fusion that mirrors the subject matter.