



STERN
-THAL

Sternthal Books
220 East 14th St. Suite #4R
New York, NY – 10003

t. 646.266.9166
isternthal@gmail.com

The Sota Project

Sternthal Books is proud to announce the upcoming publication of *The Sota Project*, an art book that will accompany Ofri Cnaani's latest video installation of the same name. The exhibit will debut at Kunsthalle Galapagos in New York City in February 2010, and travel to Tel Aviv, where it will be exhibited at the Rothschild 69 Contemporary Art Space.

The *Sota Project* is a complex multilayered video installation that unfolds in both time and three-dimensional space, the original kernel of a story is barely there. It is a haiku, an obscure scriptural footpath that peters out into nothing almost before it has begun, a barebones inventory of facts a mere fourteen lines long. The anonymous story from the Talmud – recounting the tale of two sisters, Sota and Bekhorah, living in separate villages but bound together in symbiotic loyalty amidst a backdrop of jealousy, betrayal, guilt and innocence, deception, societal judgment, ritual humiliation and ultimately death – is, as Cnaani points out, a deceptively simple moral parable, one that leaves open multiple blind spots.

Employing an innovative form of a spatial narrative, *The Sota Project* uses the most current new media technologies while employing storytelling techniques inspired by ancient Greco-Roman murals and Renaissance tapestries. Video projections on all four walls of the exhibition space will allow multiple narratives to develop concurrently, showing thus calling into question the notion of a single, coherent truth.

Ofri Cnaani was born in Israel in 1975. She currently lives in New York and works in single-channel video and large-scale video installation, as well as drawing. Cnaani's work blurs the boundaries between a constructed reality and reality itself, exploring notions of domination, feminine bodily experiences, and spatial awareness by analyzing their formal dimensions within social and psychological spheres.

Cnaani graduated from Hunter College's MFA studio program in 2004. She holds a BFA from the Beit Berel Art College in Israel. She is currently completing a largescale commission to create 10 site-specific video installations at 10 museums of contemporary art in Italy's Lombardy region.

Cnaani is a Six Points Fellow and was twice the winner of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation award. She is also a professor at the School of Visual Art in New York, where she now teaches a graduate seminar *Video, Space, and the Broken Screen*, a graduate seminar.

One-person exhibitions include: *Twister*, Network of Lombardy Contemporary Art Museums, Italy; *Andrea Meislin Gallery*; NYC, *Braverman Gallery*, Tel Aviv; *Pack Gallery*, Milan; *Haifa Museum of Art*, Israel; *Herzlyia Museum of Art*, Israel. Group exhibitions include: *Moscow Biennial*, *The Kitchen*, NYC; *Bronx Museum of the Arts*, NYC; *Kunsthalle Wien*, Vienna; *Arnolfini Foundation Museum*, Bristol, UK; *Tel Aviv Museum*; *The Israel Museum*, Jerusalem, Israel; *Prague Triennale* among many others. Awards include: *Six Points Fellowship*, *HBI Research Award*, *Artist In the Marketplace Fellowship*/*Bronx Museum of the Arts*, *American Israeli Cultural Foundation*.



STERN
-THAL

Sternthal Books

220 East 14th St. Suite #4R

New York, NY - 10003

t. 646.266.9166

isternthal@gmail.com



The Sota Project

A tale of two
sisters, bound
together in
symbiotic
loyalty.

