**Art in Embassies**

**Strengthening ties through smART power**

**January 6, 2017, 10 a.m.**

**Residence of the U.S. Ambassador to Israel**



Isca Greenfield-Sanders, Lens Flare (Soccer), 2010, Mixed media oil on canvas, Courtesy of the artist, New York

**Yair Barak, Sisterhood, 2007, C-Print, Courtesy of Keren Bar-Gil, Tel Aviv**

Ms. Julie Fisher, wife of U.S. Ambassador to Israel Daniel B. Shapiro, will host a reception dedicated to the art exhibit on display in their residence as part of the “Art in Embassies” program.

The exhibition on display at the residence of the U.S. Ambassador to Israel is focused on the topic of childhood. It features works by leading American and Israeli artists such as Ohad Matalon, Yair Barak, Boaz Aharonovich, Tamir Sher, Sivan Sternbach, Mindy Weisel, Deborah Hamon, Isca Greenfield-Sanders, and Enrique Martínez Celaya. Some of them will be present at the event and will speak about their works. Exhibit curator Keren Bar Gil will speak about the concept of the exhibit and how it strengthens cross cultural ties between Israel and the United States while reflecting the personal taste of the house residents.

Details about the Israel exhibit can be found here: <http://art.state.gov/exhibitiondetail.aspx?id=106432&region=NEA&pid=202>

About Arts in Embassies:

For five decades, Art in Embassies (AIE) has played a leading role in U.S. public diplomacy by stimulating vital cross-cultural dialogue and understanding through the visual arts and dynamic artist exchange. The program was envisioned by the Museum of Modern Art, and President John F. Kennedy formalized it at the U.S. Department of State in 1963. Today, AIE is a public-private partnership engaging over 20,000 participants globally, including artists, museums, galleries, universities, and private collectors, and it encompasses over 200 venues in 189 countries.  AIE fosters U.S. relations within local communities world-wide – an integral aspect of Department of State's commitment to smART power. Art in Embassies cultivates relationships that transcend boundaries, building trust, mutual respect and understanding among peoples.

**The event is by invitation only. Media wishing to cover the event should contact Yael Feldboy 053-4206822,** [**Feldboyyx@state.gov**](mailto:Feldboyyx@state.gov)**, or Polina Levy Eskenazi 053-4206828,** [**eskenazipl@state.gov**](mailto:eskenazipl@state.gov)