

## Judy Rifka: RETROactive



September 18<sup>th</sup> – November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

Jean-Paul Najjar Foundation  
45 Alserkal Avenue

[www.jpnajarfoundation.com](http://www.jpnajarfoundation.com)  
#jpnfmuseum

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, DUBAI** - The Jean-Paul Najjar Foundation is delighted to present Judy Rifka: RETROactive, the first comprehensive exhibition of her work in the Middle East. «Rifka’s work—complex in its simplicity, varied in its form and medium—is the result of a life spent learning, experimenting and exploring the depths of her mind and creativity, much like she does with space on the canvas. Timeless and right on time with today’s sensibility, Rifka’s work stretches from canvas to film, from the walls of galleries to her Facebook wall, where some 5,000 followers indulge in her creative process.” Her works on plywood, of which examples from the 1970s up to the recently commissioned triptych produced during the artist’s residency in Dubai, have been widely acknowledged to be among the most significant works of the 1970s. *“That’s where the plywood paintings really started happening. Those works show movement of lines that build up into shape, and morphing fields. It’s a real different look at space. I’m not really going in the direction of other painters in terms of focusing on the surface and the strokes. I’m really rushing past that to what’s going on in the space and how it’s developing with time. [...] That’s why I liked the plywood; it was like a floor for the shapes to dance on. My compositions often move forward more and laterally incidentally, whereas typical compositions think about the way a viewer is going to relate to the exterior rectangle. I’m just leaving it there as a floor and moving forward.”*

In line with the Foundation's mission to support the artists of the Collection as well as to propose unique educational content, the artist has spent two weeks in Dubai for an artist’s residency, given a series of talks and workshops, collaborated with a local dance troupe in partnership with AUD, and welcomed two apprentices to work with her. Beneficiary institutions include Zayed University, the American University of Sharjah, the American University of Dubai, NYU-Abu Dhabi, Warehouse 421 and a number of local secondary schools.

## JEAN-PAUL NAJAR FOUNDATION

a contemporary art museum



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### Judy Rifka Biography

Judy Rifka was born in 1945 in New York City. She has studied at Hunter College, The New York Studio School, the Skowhegan School of Art, and holds a BA from SUNY, and an MA from Adelphi University. Becoming highly active in the 1970s, Rifka is often associated with such artistic movements as Colab and Fluxus. She has had over fifty one-person shows including several at the Brooke Alexander Gallery, Franklin Furnace in New York, Museum (Sub) Kulture and the Galerie Tobias Hirshmann, in Germany as well as at the Piramide Arte Contemporanea, Florence. Rifka has also participated in numerous group shows including two Whitney Biennials; The New Museum; Documenta 7; the Institute of Contemporary Art, London; the Kunstmuseum, Luzern and Kunst Rai '88 Amsterdam. Her artworks belong to the permanent collection of the MoMA, the Vogel Collection, the Albright -Knox, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Mint Museum, and the Staatlich Museum in Berlin, to name a few. She has served on the juries for the New York State Council on the arts, as well as for the National Endowment for the Arts; Rifka has also taught at Columbia and Princeton Universities, and the Art Institute of Chicago. She lives and works in New York City.

**«accept the unexpected»**

*Judy Rifka*

### About the JPNF

The Jean-Paul Najjar Foundation for Contemporary Art is a non-profit ICOM registered private museum, gathering abstract European and American art from the 1960s through today. The JPNF is also home to a remarkable archive tracing forty years of artist-collector exchanges. Education is central to the museum's mission. We are committed to presenting an educational program that promotes a spirit of discovery and inquiry that engages our diverse communities. The JPNF is designed by Mario Jossa, of Marcel Breuer and Associates, and is presented in partnership with Alserkal Avenue in Dubai.

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JPNF is open Sunday – Saturday, 11AM – 6PM