

### Theatre-sculpture collaboration to celebrate motherhood

**A powerful blend of theatrical and the sculptural will celebrate motherhood – a connect audience and art in an original new exhibit as part of this year's 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerusalem Biennale from 24 September.**



Picture a mother and her child sharing presence, two minutes of uninterrupted time together, in the middle of a busy day in a busy city... taking two minutes to tell each other, “I love you. I trust you. I respect you. I appreciate your presence in my life.”

This moving, tranquil yet intensely meaningful moment will happen over and over again in the centre of Jerusalem this autumn during *Presence=Present*, within the exhibit “Motherhood Archetypes in Jewish Contemporary Art” – itself part of the 2015 Jerusalem Biennale.

A collaboration between world-renowned Israeli painter and sculptor **David Gerstein** and former North American, now Israel-based, theatre artist **Alana Ruben**

**Free**, *Presence=Present* is a unique meeting of architecture, sculpture, and performance.

According to Alana, the work is inspired her belief that the greatest ‘present’ parents can give to their children is their *presence* - and vice versa.

“In our technologically complex world with continual distractions, alienation and loneliness are common conditions,” says Alana. “Like my plays, *Presence=Present* is committed to growing the bonds of intimacy between individuals, and connecting people more deeply with their rich, inner world. All of my work seeks to create transformative experiences that catalyze spiritual and emotional growth.”



Canadian-born Alana is the author of the *Beginner at Life* theatre trilogy which has been performed - originally by herself - in New York and subsequently by other actors in Australia, Italy, Israel and Canada. Her poetry and other writing has also featured in international publications and she has been a founder and central force in the Mamapalooza festivals in New York. Alana will initiate the performance *Presence=Present* herself then invite others to participate.



David Gerstein is....

The collaboration of the two artists came about through...

*The Jerusalem Biennale is a stage for professional artists, creating today, who refer in their work, in one way or the other, to the Jewish World of Content. The Biennale take place every two years in different locations around the city and gives an opportunity for different creative forces to manifest themselves within the framework of Contemporary Jewish Art.*

**Presence=Present features in the exhibit “Motherhood Archetypes in Contemporary Jewish Art” (Ima Iya’la) at Hechal Shlomo, in central Jerusalem at 58 King George Street from September 24 to November 5, 2015. Alana will initiate performances as per the following schedule:**

For more information, visit <http://jerusalembiennale.org>

**Media for interviews, images, artist details or more information, contact Alana Ruben Free ... [Etc](#) [phone/email etc](#)**