

### **October 7th: Memorial Vigil and Capsule Display at URI Hillel**

URI Hillel will hold a **Memorial Vigil** commemorating the one-year anniversary of the Hamas terrorist attacks on southern Israel on October 7, 2023. The vigil will take place on Monday, October 7 from 12-1 pm at Hillel, 6 Quarry Rd., Kingston, RI, and will include personal reflections from students, poetry, music, and prayers.

Immediately following the vigil and continuing through October 10, URI Hillel will host [\*October Seventh\*](#), a capsule exhibit from the ANU – Museum of the Jewish People, Tel Aviv exhibition examining how Israeli culture reacts to the war. The exhibit will be on display at Hillel Monday, October 7 from 1-5 pm and Tuesday-Thursday, October 8-10 from 10 am-5 pm.

#### **About the exhibit:**

The aftermath of the horrific attacks on October 7, 2023 and the war that followed led many Israelis to rethink the way they interpret their history, art, and culture. The prevailing feeling is that even after the war ends, things will never be as they were and that the anger and profound grief will have a lasting effect on their lives.

The exhibition features three pillars: art works, soundtrack and video.

It includes art works by artists whose creative activity reflects the atrocious times Israeli society is facing since October 7th. Some of them are living artists, some deceased – either murdered on October 7th or died during the ongoing war, while others are residents (or former residents) of the southern areas, who suffered the loss of their loved ones, their homes, or whose families were affected by the horrors of the massacre. Some of the art work can be found [here](#).

*The Pain Front* is the exhibition's music playlist, reflecting the contribution Israeli performers and musicians had to coping with national trauma. They were among the first to give voice, literally, to Israelis' collective grief. By the end of the first week of the war, they began performing voluntarily all over the country. They played at funerals and hospitals, performed for evacuees from the South and the North, for survivors of the music festivals massacres, and soldiers at meeting points. They often performed with only a guitar – and a lot of soul. The songs in the soundtrack are familiar songs that the war has charged with new meaning.

*The War Diary* is the third component of the exhibition. It is a 23 minute video which was initially created for the exhibition Local Testimony 2023. It includes 300 news photos shot in the Gaza strip and southern region of Israel during October 7 and the following days.

[\*October Seventh\*](#) does not intend to sum things up or offer an angle on Israeli art since October 7. It presents a particular situation and bears witness to the unique burst of creativity in Israeli society since the outbreak of the war.

Please note that while the exhibit is not graphic, it may trigger strong emotions. Staff from the URI Counseling Center, as well as URI Hillel staff will be present for conversation and processing.

For more information, please contact URI Hillel Executive Director, Amy Olson at [amyolson@urihillel.org](mailto:amyolson@urihillel.org), or URI Hillel's Jewish Agency Israel Fellow, Tal Anter at [tal.anter@uri.org](mailto:tal.anter@uri.org)