

VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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FALL 2023 EVENTS

USC-LACMA History of Photography Seminar



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

5:30-7:30pm PST
SOS 250

*Alternative Visions in the Institutional Archive:
Haim Shmuel Mizrahi's Albums and the Zionist
Movement*

ROTEM ROZENTAL

Executive Director, Los Angeles Center of Photography

In his astounding collection of photographic albums and handwritten texts, Haim Shmuel Mizrahi charted pre-state Palestine through the visual language developed by the Zionist photographic archive. An avid Zionist activist, his photographic pursuits captured desolate lands and young people who conquer the landscape through travels, emerging settlements and a growing community that sought to establish a national home during the first half of the twentieth century. In this talk, we will follow Mizrahi and his complicated relationships with the Zionist establishment, observing the intersections of institutional systems and private repositories and how their reciprocal relations manifested in a collective visual culture.

Rotem Rozental, Ph.D, is the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Center of Photography. Between 2016-2022, she served as Chief Curator at American Jewish University, where she was also Assistant Dean of the Whizin Center for Continuing Education and Senior Director of Arts and Creative Programming. Her book, *Pre-State Photographic Archives and the Zionist Movement* was published in March 2023 by Routledge, and was named recipient of the Jordan Schnitzer First Book Award by the Association for Jewish Studies. Rotem is a lecturer at USC Roski School of Art and Design Critical Studies Department, and teaches seminars about photo-theory at the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research. She mentors artists worldwide and contributes regularly to magazines, journals and exhibition catalogues. Her writings about contemporary art and image-based media, as well as Jewish and Israeli art, were published in *Artforum.com*, *Photographies*, *Jewish Currents*, *Tablet* and *Forward*, among other outlets.

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