

מוזיאון ישראל, ירושלים
the israel museum, jerusalem
متحف اسرائيل، اورشليم القدس



Update: Israel Museum, Jerusalem in 2025


Museum objects are registered for the three curatorial wings:

Art, Judaica and Archeology

350,000 museum objects digitized of which some 17,000 are online

in addition to the library holdings there are some 150,000 items in study collection and archival item

i



the israel museum, jerusalem

EXHIBITIONSEVENTSFAMILIESCOLLECTION GALLERIES

EXPLORE THE COLLECTIONSUBJECTPERIOD

Explore The Collection > Jewish Art > Stone Hanukkah lamp inscribed with blessings recited over the lights

Stone Hanukkah lamp inscribed with blessings recited over the lights

Jerusalem

ca. 1900

Limestone, carved and incised


Inscribed in Hebrew: Blessings over the lights and related passages

H: 12; L: 25 cm

The Feuchtwanger Collection, purchased and donated by Baruch and Ruth Rappaport, Geneva

Accession number:
HF 0391
118/657

Jewish Art and Life



International Collaborative Projects

2003 Bi-National Seminar Italy Israel on the Digital Access to Scientific and Cultural Heritage Resources

2016: Virtual museums and social platform on European digital heritage, memory, identity, and cultural interaction - Antonella Fresa, Pisa, Italy

Europeana Fashion

Europeana Judaica

Europeana Photography - 6,817 ITEMS [LINK](#)



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The Brown Sisters

This item is provided and maintained by The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

[View on the providing institution's website](#)

Good to know

All metadata

Creator

Nicholas Nixon ; [Nicholas Nixon](#)

Type of item

Photography ; Photograph ; [Photograph](#) ; [Photography genre](#)



Boris Schatz - Father of Israeli Art

From the Archive of the Information Center for Israeli Art, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

THE BORIS SCHATZ ARCHIVE

INTRODUCTION

A NEW JEWISH ART

BORIS SCHATZ'S FAMILY

SCHATZ IN SOFIA

BEZALEL SCHOOL

SCHATZ'S DREAMS COME TRUE

CREDITS

SITE MAP

MATTATHIAS THE HIGH PRIEST

Schatz's most famous work was part of a series of sculptures depicting Jewish national leaders. It portrays Mattathias ben Johanan, a Jewish high priest whose role in the revolt against the Seleucids in the 2nd century BCE is recorded in the Books of the Maccabees.



Makings of an artist



Boris Schatz began his artistic journey at a young age, with several important factors eventually leading to his unwavering vision later in life.

Boris Schatz in Sofia



In Bulgaria, Schatz used art as a means of shaping national identity, a fundamental idea which he would later bring to the Land of Israel.

Personal life and family



An intimate view of Schatz's personal life is revealed through his letters and other correspondence, indicating close family relationships.

Influence today



Although Boris Schatz did not live to see his dreams being completely fulfilled, his legacy endures in Israel up to the present day.

Photoconsortium Collaborations

IMJ Sharing Research on AI

December 2024

Implementation of AI Tools in the Photo Department Collections

Oversaw the preparation and integration of AI tools in cataloging photo collections at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem (IMJ).
AI tool provided by “Billions of Words”

May 2023

“AI Tools in Perspective: The Potential for Cultural Heritage Institutions”

Europeana Pro Round Table Discussion

Served as expert panelist on the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in cataloguing practices within museums.
Event hosted by the Europeana Research Community.

[Link](#) | [Recording](#)

September 2022

“Metadata Generation for Intangible Heritage: The Role of Crowdsourcing and AI to Address Bias Risk”

Co-author, WEAVE Project Final Conference, Girona, Spain

With: Valentina Bachi, Rosa Cisneros, Antonella Fresa, Alexandru Stan, and Frederik Truyen

[WEAVE Conference Program](#)

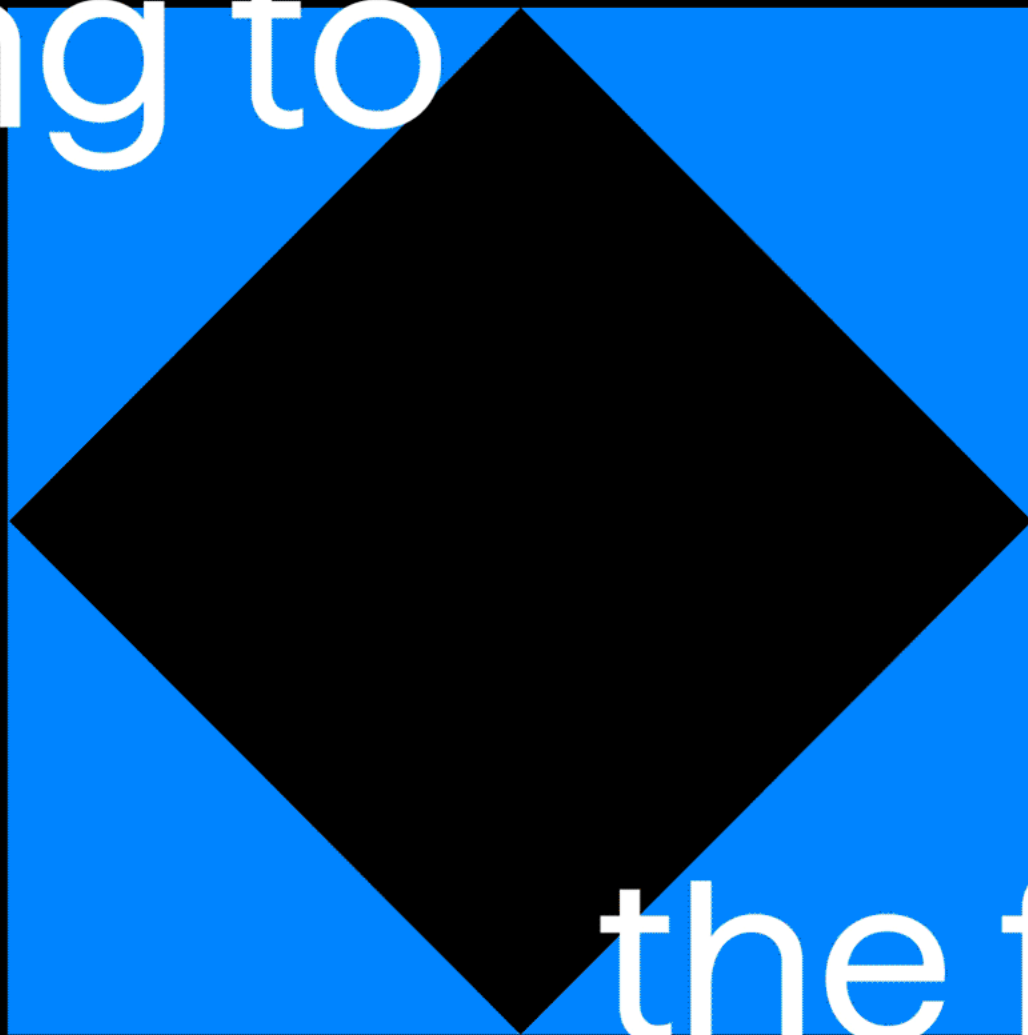
June 2022

“Cataloguing Large Photo Collections – Is Artificial Intelligence (AI) Unbiased?”

Photoconsortium and Citizen Heritage Conference, Pisa, Italy

A lecture on the ethical implications and technical challenges of using AI to classify and describe photographic archives.
Available as PDF presentation. [Link](#)

looking to



the future

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BILLIONS OF WORDS



Artificial Intelligence as a Lens: Discovering Street Photography

How AI can help us see what was always there

Dr. Allison Kupietzky, Head of Digital Innovation

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

Billions of Words: Anat Kirchuk, Omri Peleg, Elad Yundler

General Assembly of the Photoconsortium Florence, 28th of March 2025

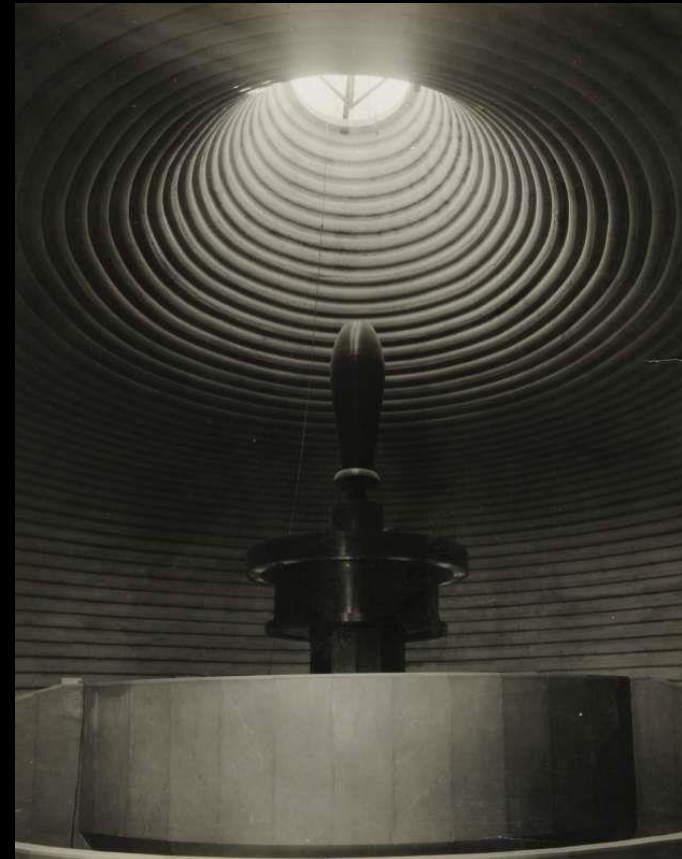
Artificial Intelligence

Museums and their collections

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Alfred Bernheim

*Shrine of the Book, The
Israel Museum, Jerusalem*
Undated

The Bernheim Collection in
the Israel Museum,
purchased through the gift
of Warner

Communications, New York
Photo: Alfred Bernheim. ©
The Israel Museum,
Jerusalem

Accession number:
B99.0921

Scattered archives, hidden collections

PHOTO
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Applying AI to collection management



Mosaic pavement depicting female donors

Kissufim, western Negev, 578 CE, stone and glass

IAA 1977-416

Photo © The Israel Museum, Jerusalem by Elie Posner

Original Greek to English using Google Lens

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Original Greek to English using ChatGPT for Translation

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AI & Discovery

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bicycle



Facial recognition in IMJ's collection

Identifying Avigdor Arikha's face across collections

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Avigdor Arikha, Israeli, 1929–2010
Canvas with Self Portrait
1976
Oil on canvas
Purchase, Ayala Zacks–Abramov Fund
B77.0620
Israeli Art Department



Avigdor Arikha" exhibition opening, 1998
IMJ Photography Laboratory



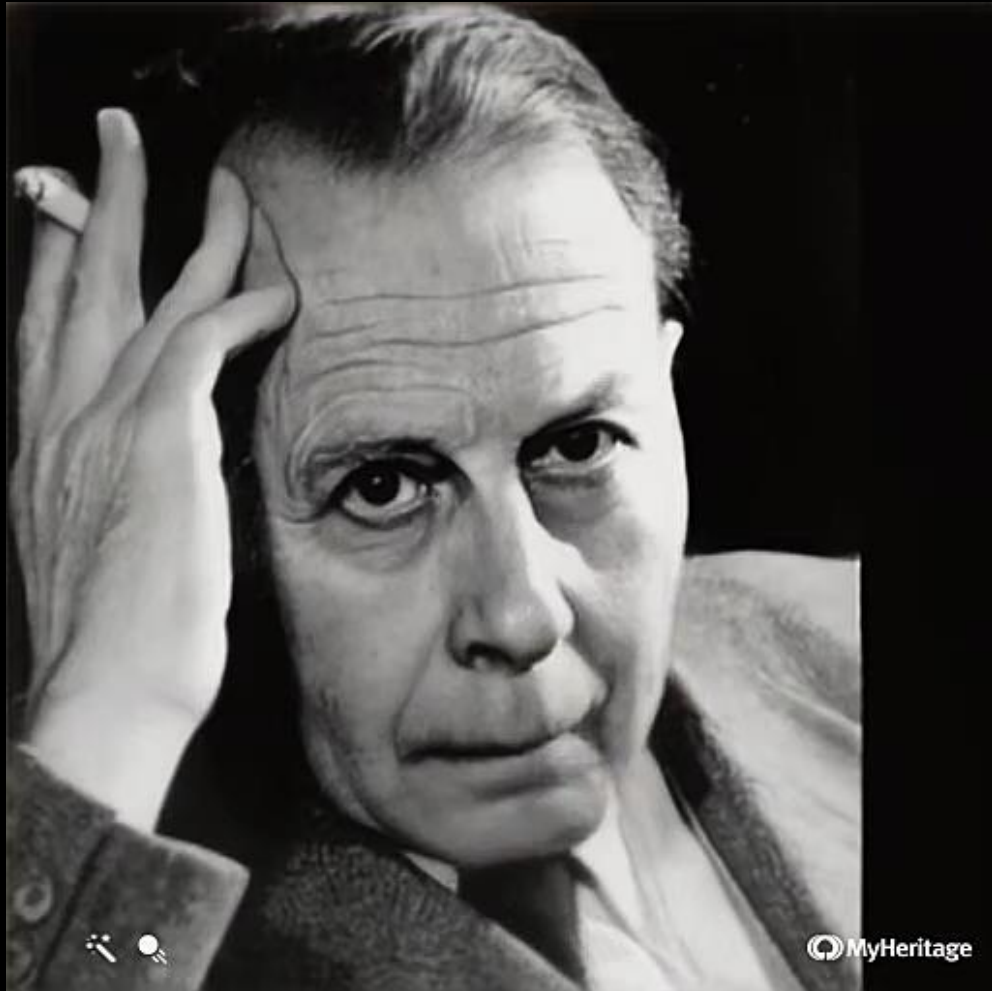
Avigdor Arikha
Photographer: Stanley I. Batkin
From the Archives of the
Information Center for Israeli Art

PHOTO
CONSORTIUM



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AI Challenges & Ethics



Animating faces [link](#)

Richard Kauffmann, Israeli architect,
born Germany, 1887–1958

Photographed by Bettina Oppenheimer,
Israel, 1950–1957

Central Zionist Archives

Animation by MyHeritage D-ID

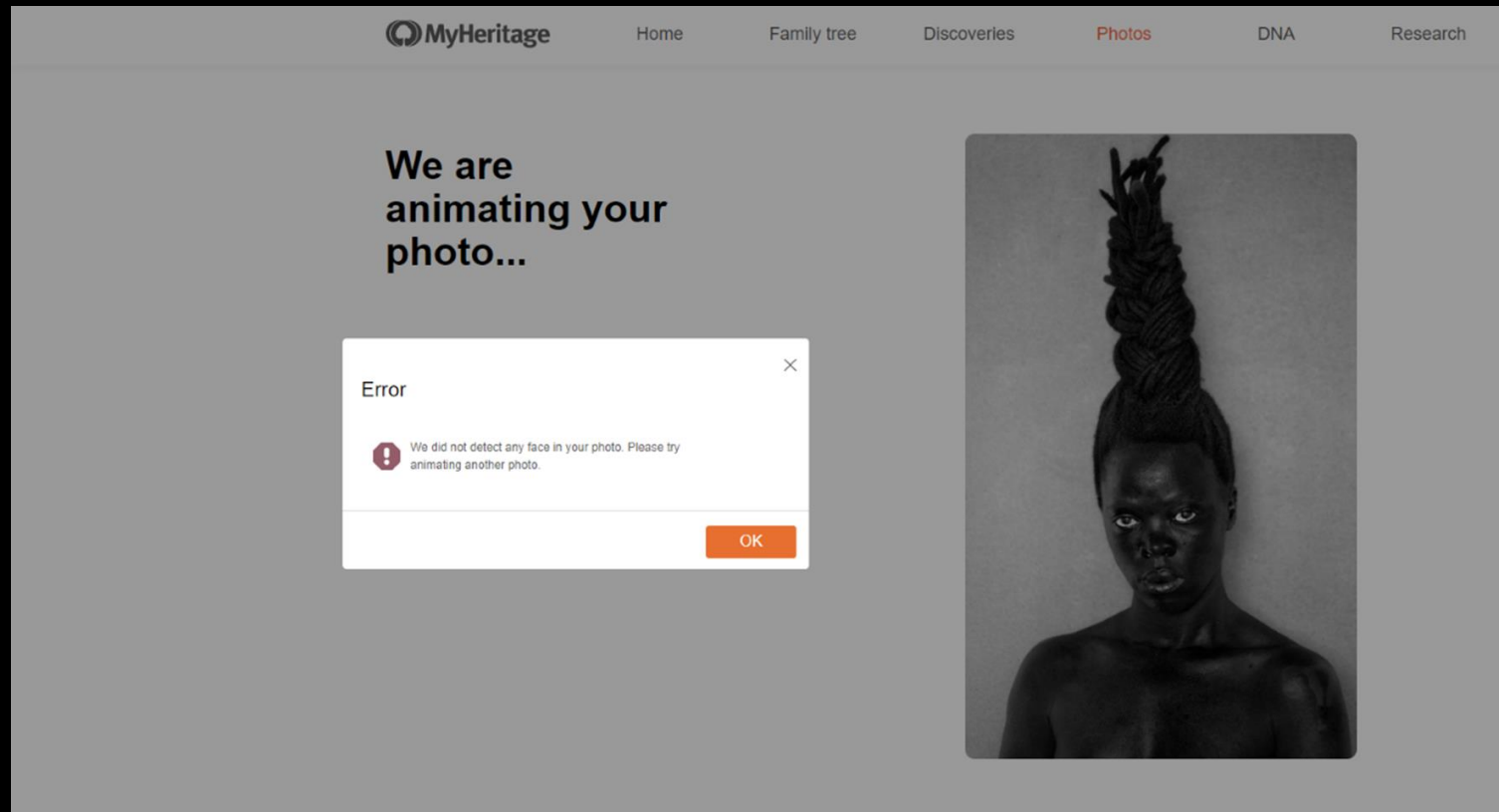


BILLIONS OF WORDS

Biases in facial recognition

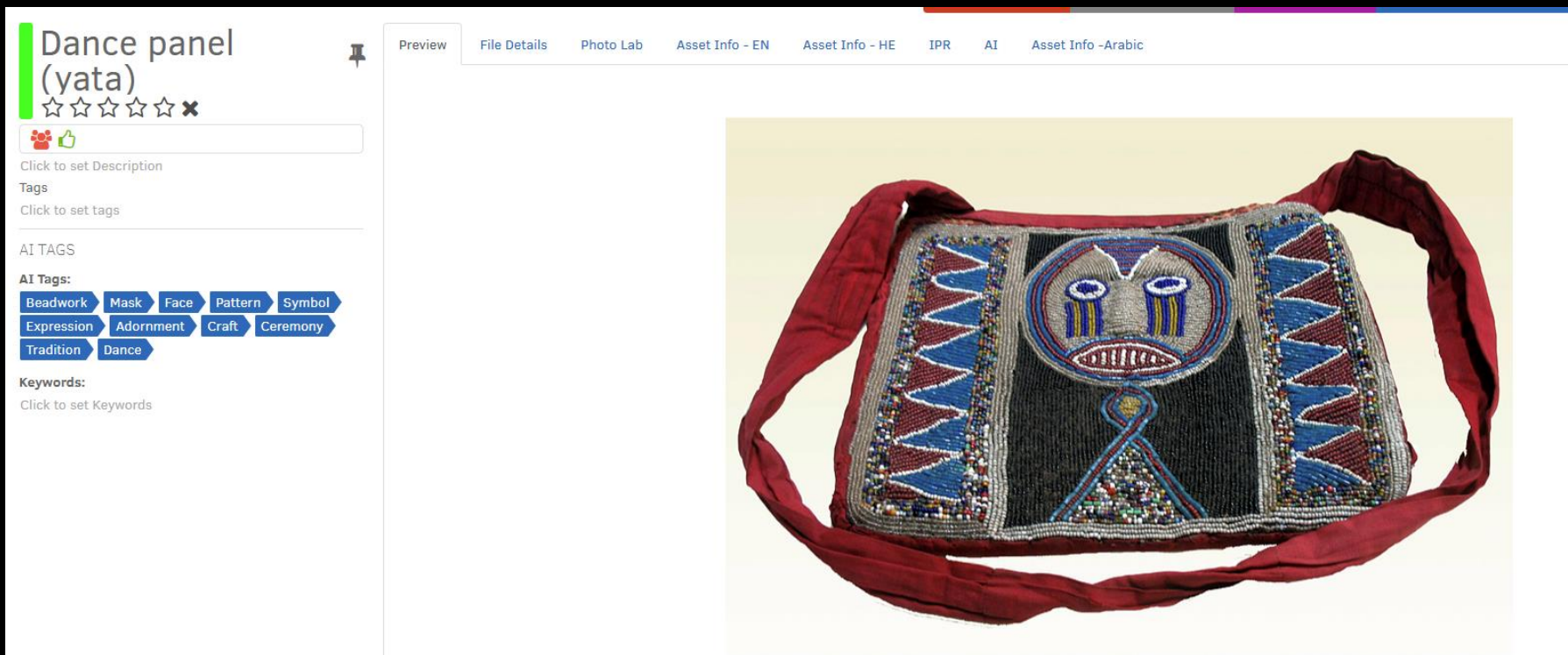
Tool: MyHeritage

Muholi's self-portrait



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Automated tagging of artworks using AI – the importance of context



Dance panel (*yata*)
Yoruba people, Nigeria
Early 20th century
Cloth, glass beads, and cardboard
Anonymous gift to American Friends
of the Israel Museum
B02.0272



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From Research to Application: Using AI in the Israel Museum

What is Street Photography?

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Tim Nachum Gidal,
Israeli, born Germany,
1909–1996
Oxford Street, London,
England
1939
B02.0382(E0044)

Allison Kupietzky
Street Photography
Romania
2025

Street photographer
Couple in Łusk,
Poland
1930

What is Street Photography?

PHOTO
CONSORTIUM



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Tim Nachum Gidal, Israeli, born Germany, 1909–1996

Bond Street, London, England, 1939
Israel Museum, Jerusalem: Purchased through the gift of Gary B. Sokol, San Francisco, The Pritzker Foundation, San Francisco, Larry Zicklin, New Jersey, Dr. John Summers, New York
B02.0382(E0108)



Brassaï (Gyula Halász), born Hungary, active France, 1899–1984
Le Reve – sur les Grands Boulevards (The Dream – on the Grand Boulevard), 1934
Gelatin silver print
Israel Museum, Jerusalem: Gift of Howard P. Willens, Washington, DC, to American Friends of the Israel Museum
B12.0606



Tim Nachum Gidal, Israeli, born Germany, 1909–1996
Flamenco Dancer, Spain, 1967
Israel Museum, Jerusalem: Purchased through the gift of Gary B. Sokol, San Francisco, The Pritzker Foundation, San Francisco, Larry Zicklin, New Jersey, Dr. John Summers, New York
B02.0382(Sp0408)

Introducing Billions of Words AI Tagging

Munich



Click to set Description

Tags

Click to set tags

AI TAGS

Keywords:

Click to set Keywords

AI Tags:

Street Cart Cobblestone Shadow
Transportation Market Vendor Urban
Perspective Solitude

Preview

File Details

Photo Lab

Asset Info - EN

Asset Info - HE

IPR

AI

Asset Info -Arabic



Tim Nahum Gidal, Israeli,
born Germany, 1909–1996
Munich, 1930
Gelatin silver print
Israel Museum, Jerusalem
Gift of the artist
B84.0050



BILLIONS OF WORDS

The AI revolution of digital collections

Our toolbox integrates AI with organizational knowledge and allows:

- ❑ Enriching metadata with visual content
- ❑ Natural language semantic search
- ❑ Tools for collection visualization

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Enriching Metadata with Visual Content

The Crazy Gang, England
Tim Gidal, 1939



1. Billiards
2. Humor
3. Group
4. Vintage
5. Playful

Children Jumping, Ireland
Tim Gidal, 1957



1. Children
2. Jumping
3. Black and white
4. Stone wall
5. Outdoors

Flower Show, London, England
Tim Gidal, 1939



1. Flowers
2. Hat
3. Man
4. Indoor
5. Black and white

Untitled, Germany
Tim Gidal, 1929



1. Boats
2. Lake
3. Outdoors
4. Trees
5. Black and white

Vilnius, Poland
Tim Gidal, 1932



1. Landscape
2. Trees
3. Men
4. Rural
5. Black and white

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Natural Language Semantic Search

people walking down the street in Europe

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B02.0382(nEn0902-002)



B02.0382(nEn0427-014)



B02.0382(E0108A)



B02.0382(nEn0455-036)



B02.0382(nEn0455-031)



B02.0382(nEn0896-011)



B02.0382(nEn0902-010)



B02.0382(nAs0164-007)



B02.0382(nEn0896-004)



B02.0382(nEn0920-005)

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Tim Gidal

1909-1996

Bond Street, London, England

1939

England on the Eve of World War II | 1939



 Similar Images

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Artificial Intelligence Information Enrichment



The screenshot shows the "BILLIONS OF WORDS" search interface. At the top, the logo and tagline "JUST WHAT HISTORY WAS SEARCHING FOR" are displayed. Below this, there are two main sections: "Upload an image" and "Enter a text". The "Upload an image" section includes a "Drag and drop file here" area with a cloud icon and a "Browse files" button. The "Enter a text" section includes a text input field with a cursor and a "Press Enter to apply" button. Below these sections, there are two buttons: "Search by Image" and "Search by Text".

Tools for Collection Visualization

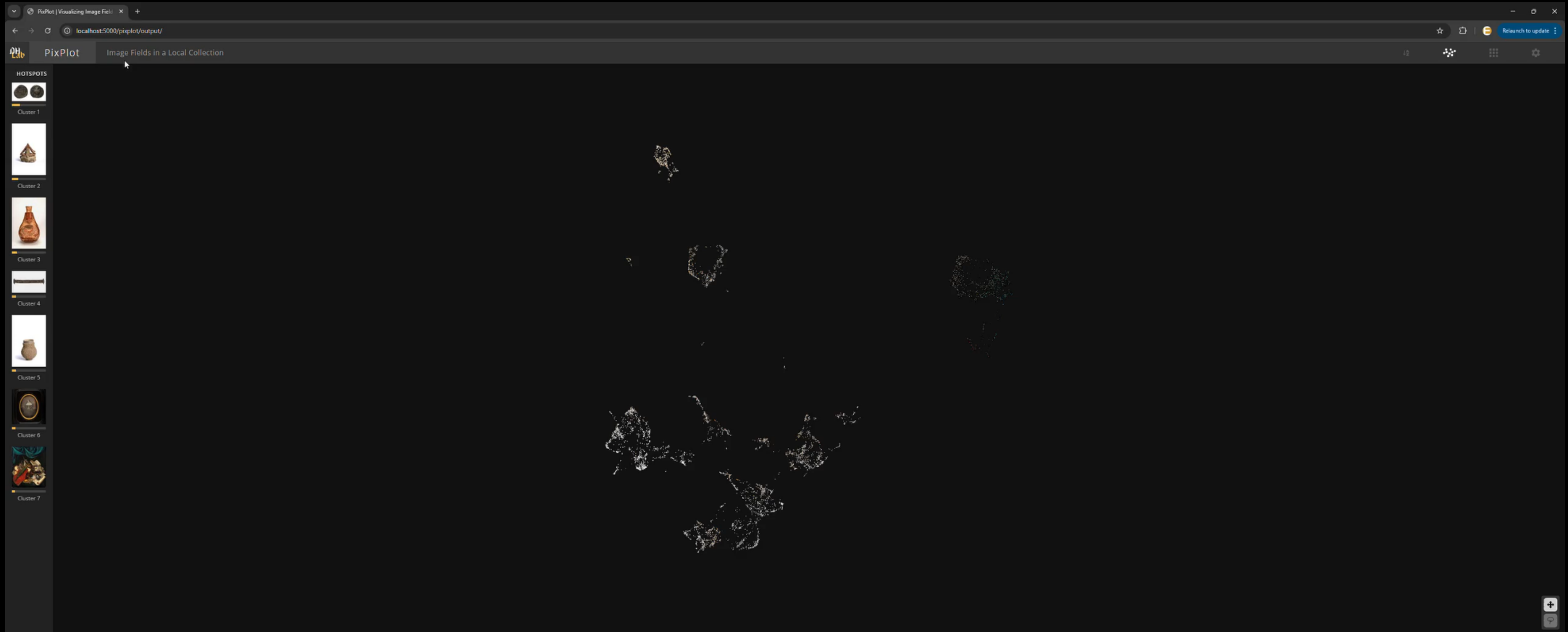


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BILLIONS OF WORDS

Applying AI tags to help the public “Discover the Collections”

Exhibit Design

Option W - White Panel - No spacing - Side View



אוסף המוזיאון Museum Collection مجموعة المتحف

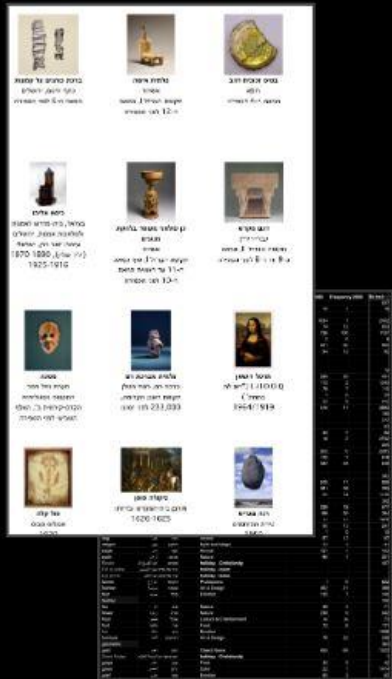
תצוגה דיגיטלית אינטראקטיבית של פרטים
מאוסף המוזיאון - מסע חקר אישי ומעשיר בין
רבדי האמנות והתרבות אשר במוזיאון.

An interactive digital display of items
from the museum's collection - a
personal and enriching journey
through the layers of art and culture
within the museum.

عرض رقمي تفاعلي لمقتنيات من مجموعة
المتحف - رحلة شخصية وغنية عبر طبقات
الفن والثقافة داخل المتحف.



Information enrichment



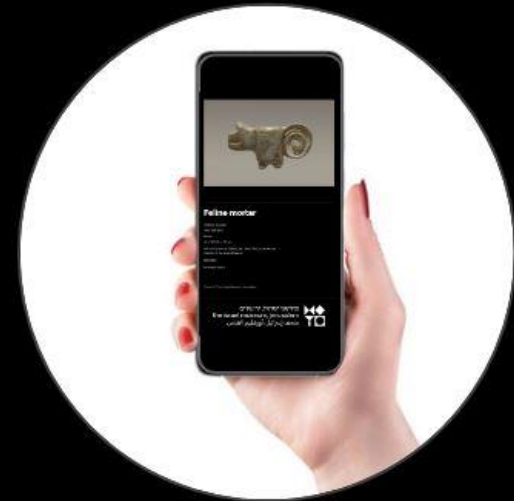
Israel Museum Collection
Management System



TEMA Backend & Frontend
Software App



Israel Museum Interactive
Installation



Connection to the App.

Artwork in the galleries



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BILLIONS OF WORDS

Peter Paul Rubens
Flemish, 1577–1640
Romulus and Titus Tatius
1630–34
Oil on panel

Gift of Sam Weisbord, Los
Angeles, to American Friends of
the Israel Museum, in loving
memory of his mother, Goldie
Weisbord
B86.0910

Artwork in the galleries: Augmented reality



Peter Paul Rubens
Flemish, 1577–1640
Romulus and Titus Tatius
1630–34
Oil on panel

Gift of Sam Weisbord, Los
Angeles, to American
Friends of the Israel
Museum, in loving memory
of his mother, Goldie
Weisbord
B86.0910



Animation by Yael Aisenthal

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BILLIONS OF WORDS

looking to the future

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**Discover your collections
potential – get in touch.**