



**STERN
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sternthal Books is pleased to announce the publication of:

The Sota Project

By Ofri Cnaani

Essay by James Trainor

The book's release coincides with the artist's video installation at Kusthalle Galapagos, showing until April 23rd, 2011.

Sternthal Books is pleased to announce the publication of *The Sota Project* by Ofri Cnaani, an artist whose work blurs the boundaries between a constructed reality and reality itself, exploring notions of domination, feminine bodily experiences, and spatial awareness by analyzing their formal dimensions within social and psychological spheres. The book is the first to be released by the new art book imprint being launched by Ian Sternthal and its publication coincides with *The Sota Project* exhibition, which opens February 16th at the Kunsthalle Galapagos, located at 25 Main Street in DUMBO, Brooklyn. It will be open until April 23rd, after which it will travel to Tel-Aviv, where it will open this summer at the Rothschild 69 contemporary art space.

The Sota Project is an immersive, multilayered video installation that reenacts a controversial text from the Talmud. The film is seamlessly projected onto the four walls of the exhibition space, surrounding the viewer on all sides. Using the four screens, the artist creates a simultaneous narrative that tells the story of two sisters, Sota and Bekhorah, who are forced to bind together in symbiotic loyalty when Sota's husband accuses her of infidelity. Against a backdrop of jealousy, betrayal, judgment, ritual humiliation, and ultimately death, Cnaani's installation depicts a deceptively simple moral parable that unfolds in countless ways. As James Trainor writes in his essay, Ofri Cnaani's *Sota Project* "doesn't aspire to spectacles of definitive and universal truths. In fact, in offering an ambiguous reading of an already ambiguous tale, it summons more questions than it answers, suggesting multiple, contradictory and individual truths."

The Sota Project book is a detailed, beautifully produced volume that includes Trainor's essay, the original script in both Hebrew and English, as well as commentaries by a variety of scholars and thinkers, including a conversation between the artist and her Talmudic men-

tor, Ruth Calderon. The volume includes silkscreen, foil stamping, multiple paper stocks, and double gatefolds.

About Ofri Cnaani

Ofri Cnaani was born in Israel in 1975. She currently lives in New York and works in single-channel video and large-scale video installation, as well as drawing. Cnaani graduated from Hunter College's MFA studio program in 2004. She holds a BFA from the Beit Berel Art College in Israel. She is currently completing a large-scale commission to create 10 site-specific video installations at 10 museums of contemporary art in Italy's Lombardy region.

About Sternthal Books

Ian Sternthal was born in Montreal, Canada. He currently lives in New York, where he received his Masters degree in degree in Liberal Studies for the New School for Social Research. He recently founded Sternthal Books, an art book publishing company devoted to making political picture books. As an artist, writer, book designer, and publisher, his work deals with the political potential of art to provoke broader social changes. For more information, please visit www.sternthalbooks.com.

The Sota Project

by Ofri Cnaani, essay by James Trainor

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For more information about *The Sota Project* and Sternthal Books, please contact Ian Sternthal at publicity@sternthalbooks.com or by phone at 646-266-9166.