****

The Female Side of God
April 30 until October 8, 2017

An exhibition of the Jewish Museum Hohenems
In collaboration with the Jewish Museum Frankfurt am Main
and the Museum of the Bible, Washington DC

**In the biblical Book of Genesis 1:27, it says: “And God created man in His image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”**

The Jewish Museum Hohenems poses a challenging question to the monotheistic religions: Is it possible to view the**—**according to Jewish, Christian, and Muslim tradition**—**“one and only God” as other than male? The exhibition**—thus takes a critical look** at concepts of God in the Abrahamic religions. It also addresses the impact of these notions on traditional religious and social practice and the self-assertive attempts to break out of these roles.

In the Ancient Near East, female deities were usually perceived only in close conjunction with their male partners. This is also reflected in the formation of Yahwism. Although strict rejection of anthropomorphic images of God proscribed the question of concrete gender attribution, in the monotheistic world religions, the notion of God “the Lord” was clearly defined as male.

The possibility of a sexually**—sometimes more, sometimes less—**female-defined dimension of God flashes up in the Hebrew Bible, in extracanonical writings, and in rabbinic literature. Especially in Jewish mysticism, it lives on explicitly**—only to be rediscovered in the 20th century with momentous consequences.**

The exhibition casts a glance at the sources that generated the monotheistic notion of God, at its cultural tradition in writing and imagery. It scrutinizes ideas of the female as negative antithesis to the male, and presents Jewish and other women who have been and still keep searching for their own dimensions of the divine**—also in their artistic examinations of traditional notions of God in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.**

Curators
Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek and Michaela Feurstein-Prasser (xhibit, Wien)
Projectmanagement
Hanno Loewy, Birgit Sohler (Hohenems)
Architecture
Martin Kohlbauer (Wien)
Design
atelier stecher (Götzis)
Roland Stecher, Thomas Matt

Opening
Sunday April 30, 2017, 11am
Salomon Sulzer Saal, Schweizer Str. 21, 6845 Hohenems

Guided tours
7.5.| 4.6. | 16.7. | 6.8. | 3.9. | 1.10. | from 11:30am until 12:30pm

Opening hours museum and coffeehouse
Tue to Sun 10am–5pm and holidays

Contact
Birgit Sohler
Press and Public Relation
Jewish Museum Hohenems
Schweizer Str. 5, 6845 Hohenems
+43 (0)5576 73989 13
sohler@jm-hohenems.at