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**Reconciling Judaism and Feminism in Contemporary Israeli Art:
Lecture to Kick-off Exciting Fall Public Programs at Rutgers' Bildner Center**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – Professor Paula Birnbaum (University of San Francisco), an expert on the impact of gender and ethnicity on contemporary women artists, will explore the intersection of current Israeli art and Jewish religious tradition at this year's Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Program on September 23. The lecture is the first of numerous public programs this fall sponsored by the Bildner Center, including the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival (Oct. 30 – Nov. 11), and talks on Kabbalah and Hebrew literature. (For the full program schedule, please visit our new website:

BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu.)

“Body, Ritual, Text: Reconciling Judaism and Feminism in Contemporary Israeli Art” will be held at 7:30 pm at the Rutgers Student Center, 126 College Avenue in New Brunswick. The talk is sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University and is free and open to the public. The talk is presented in conjunction with the Fertile Crescent: Gender, Art, and Society, a program of the Rutgers Institute for Women and Art. Advance registration is requested by contacting csjlrsvp@rci.rutgers.edu or 732-932-2033. Free parking is available.

Birnbaum is the director of the Art History and Arts Management program at the University of San Francisco, where she is also developing a new M.A. program in Museum Studies. Her recent publications include two books: *Women Artists in Interwar France: Framing Femininities* (Ashgate, 2011), and a coedited anthology, with Anna Novakov, *Essays on Women's Artistic and Cultural Contributions 1919-1939* (Edwin Mellen, 2009).

The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life connects the university with the community through public lectures, symposia, Jewish communal initiatives, cultural events, and teacher training.