





ART IN EMBASSIES EXHIBITION  
UNITED STATES EMBASSY JERUSALEM

## ART IN EMBASSIES

---

Established in 1963, the U.S. Department of State's office of Art in Embassies (AIE) plays a vital role in our nation's public diplomacy through a culturally expansive mission, creating temporary and permanent exhibitions, artist programming, and publications. The Museum of Modern Art first envisioned this global visual arts program in the 1950s and a decade later President John F. Kennedy formalized it, naming the program's first director. Now with over 200 venues, AIE curates exhibitions for the representational spaces of all U.S. Ambassadors' residences and new embassies worldwide, selecting and commissioning contemporary art from the U.S. and the host countries. These exhibitions provide international audiences with a sense of the quality, scope, and diversity of both countries' art and culture, establishing AIE's presence in more countries than any other U.S. foundation or arts organization.

AIE's exhibitions allow citizens, many of whom might never travel to the United States, to personally experience the depth and breadth of our artistic heritage and values, making what has been called a "footprint that can be left where people have no opportunity to see American art."

# WELCOME

Welcome to our exhibition of the art of the United States Chief of Mission Residence in Herzliya, Israel. Art is a language, just like English or Hebrew. In selecting the art within our home, we chose the works that spoke to us with uplifting messages of inspiration and empowerment.

As you look through this catalog, which consists almost entirely of works by Israeli artists, we hope you will see and even hear the messages that moved us: messages of peace, tranquility, spirituality, optimism in the face of adversity, and kindness. “Hatikva,” Israel’s national anthem, means “the hope,” and it is that hope and the spirit of Israel’s incredible people that we sought to capture in the artwork that adorns this American Residence.

Even more pervasive than artwork, our walls are adorned with pictures of our beloved family. While those pictures are not included in this catalog, we did include one painting by my grandmother, Josephine Gottlieb, an orphaned teenage refugee from war-torn Europe who arrived on American shores in 1915 and successfully struggled to rebuild her life in New York City. Her story is the story of so many Americans and highlights what is truly magnificent about the United States.

Enjoy this exhibition, and may it bring you a message of hope and peace.

**Ambassador David Friedman and Mrs. Tammy Friedman**

*Jerusalem, Israel  
September 2020*

# BOAZ AHARONOVITCH 1970

---

Photographer Boaz Aharonovitch's work centers on the limits of the eye and its perception, attempting to merge different times and perspectives into one image. For *Growing a Garden for an Unknown Lover*, one of his best-known series, he grew a small garden in his urban South Tel Aviv studio, where natural flora is rare. He germinated vegetables and flowers for thirty-one days, continuously documenting the wild scene, searching for the perfect composition.

Aharonovitch received both his Master of Fine Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem, in Israel and in 2005 won the Young Artist Award from the Israeli Ministry of Education and Culture. His works have been exhibited in numerous galleries and museums around the world and featured in the permanent collections of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel; the Bundestag Collection, Berlin, Germany; and the Bass, Miami, Florida.





*Growing a Garden for an Unknown Lover*, 2011. C print, 39 3/8 x 118 1/8 in. (100 x 300 cm). Courtesy of the artist, Tel Aviv, Israel

ZIGI  
BEN-HAIM  
1945

Sculptor and painter Zigi Ben-Haim's multicultural background became the footprint of identity throughout his work. His family emigrated from Iraq to Israel when he was five. Growing up in Tel Aviv, the United States fascinated him; news of the anti-Vietnam War and civil rights protests and hippie culture were profoundly influential. He became a United States citizen in 1979 and has lived and worked in New York's SoHo ever since. His large-scale, multi-layered works present nature as simultaneously fragmented and grand. Using aluminum panels, wire mesh, paint, and collage, Ben-Haim creates a visual world that seems chaotic, but upon closer examination reveals itself to be as ordered as nature itself.

Ben-Haim studied at the Avni Institute of Fine Arts, Tel Aviv, and later at the California College of Arts & Crafts, Oakland. He earned two master's degrees, one from John F. Kennedy University, Orinda, and one from San Francisco State University, both in California. His works are included in numerous collections worldwide, such as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Jewish Museum, and the Brooklyn Museum in New York and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. He has won many awards and grants, including from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Ministry of Culture in Israel, among others.





*Valley Land, 2008. Oil and acrylic on aluminum, 47 ¼ x 94 ½ x 3 15/16 in. (120 x 240 x 10 cm). Courtesy of the Dubi Shiff Art Collection, Tel Aviv, Israel*



ORLY  
GENGER  
1979

---

Orly Genger is known for immense and brilliantly colored rope installations that use the traditional techniques of crocheting, knitting, and knotting. She transforms this everyday material into powerful yet pliable sculptures. Genger also makes metal sculptures, and her work retains a reductive, abstract vocabulary along the lines of mid-century minimalist art typically made and manufactured out of machined metal.

With industrial rope, she hints at and departs from the minimalist legacy, by injecting an organic softness into these large shapes. Genger's practice requires her to wrestle with heavy recycled lobster rope and is inherently labor intensive. Her sculptures simultaneously exude an imposing physical presence, fluidity, softness, and a sense of welcoming accessibility, which resonates with their pulsating palette of intense color.

Genger earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, and studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois. Her work has been exhibited widely across the United States and is featured in many permanent collections, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California; the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California; the Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut; and the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Brooklyn Museum, all in New York. She also collaborates on a line of jewelry with designer Jaclyn Mayer.



**Untitled, 2016**  
Powder coated bronze  
8 ½ x 5 ¼ x 7 in. (21,6 x 13,3 x 17,8 cm)  
Courtesy of the artist, New York, New York

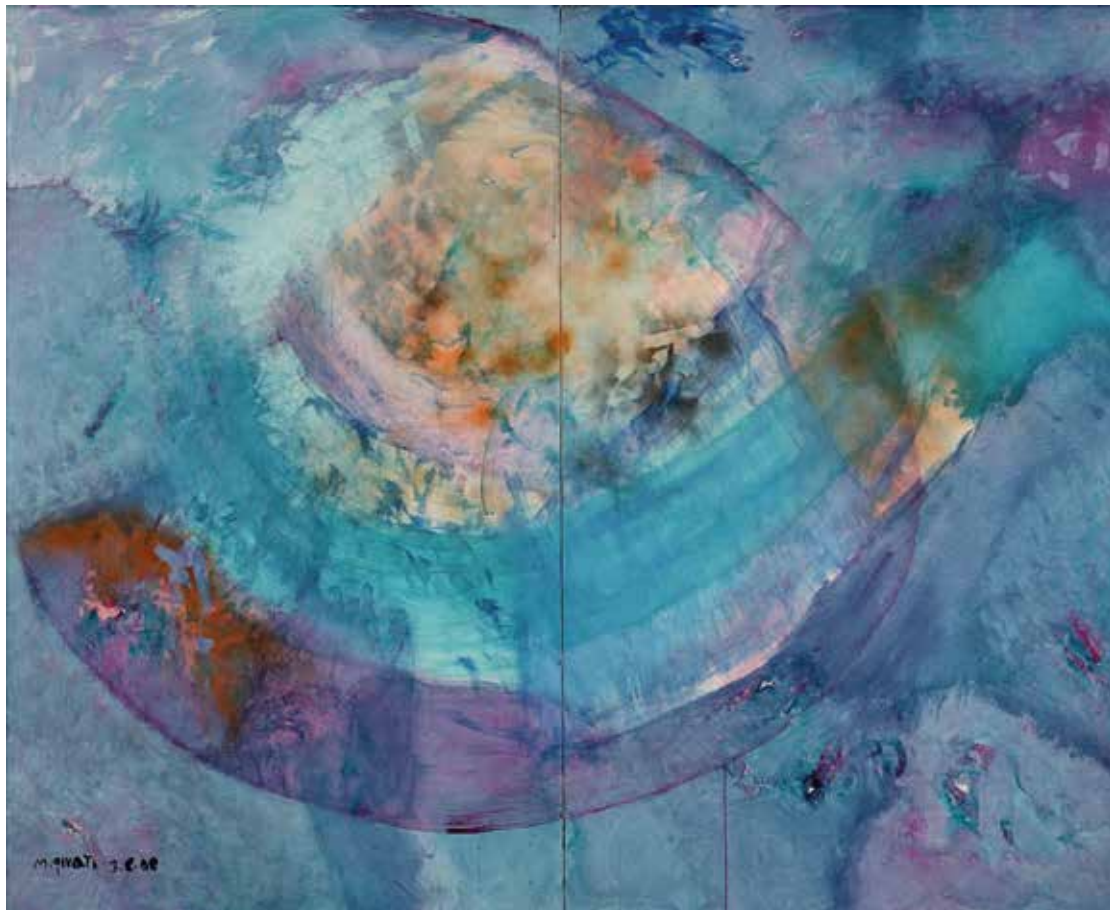


MOSHE  
GIVATI  
1934–2012

---

Several characteristics can be associated with Moshe Givati's art: his combinations of the organic and the geometric, the real and the abstract, the meditative and the expressive, the monochromatic and the colorful, and the transparent and the covered. His body of work is based on the contrasts between these extremes and his ongoing attempts to find an equilibrium between them.

Givati's works are kept in public and private collections worldwide and have been featured in exhibitions that later became landmarks in the history of Israeli art, including *New Horizons* and *10+*. The Tel Aviv Museum of Art held a retrospective in 2006, accompanied by a profound catalog.



*Untitled, 2008*  
Acrylic on canvas  
70 7/8 x 86 5/8 in. (180 x 220 cm)  
Courtesy of the Dubi Shiff Art Collection,  
Tel Aviv, Israel

MOSHE  
GIVATI

*Untitled, 1997*  
Acrylic on canvas  
47 ¼ x 51 ¾ in. (120 x 130 cm)  
Courtesy of the Dubi Shiff Art Collection,  
Tel Aviv, Israel





*Untitled, 1997*  
Acrylic on canvas  
45 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 51 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in. (116 x 130 cm)  
Courtesy of the Dubi Shiff Art Collection,  
Tel Aviv, Israel

A green circular graphic is located on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the page number.

# JOSEPHINE GOTTLIEB

1898-1999

---

At the age of sixty-five, Josephine Gottlieb, maternal grandmother of Ambassador David Friedman, began painting. Born in Pressburg, what was then Hungary and is now Bratislava, Slovakia, Gottlieb was orphaned as a young teenager. She immigrated to the United States in 1915 in exchange for a commitment to work without pay for five years. After fulfilling that obligation, Gottlieb met her husband Lewis and rebuilt her life. The Gottliebs remained married for over seventy years; raised two daughters, Adelaide (the Ambassador's mother) and Margo; and were privileged to enjoy many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. After raising a family, she explored her artistic interests.

Though never hampered by the past, Gottlieb's works expressed the darkness of her early years, triumph over adversity, and hope for the future. She produced beautiful oil on canvas paintings for thirty years, although hers remained largely a private practice.





*Reflections*  
Oil on canvas  
22 ¼ x 36 ½ in.  
(58 x 92 cm)  
Courtesy of  
the Ambassador,  
Jerusalem, Israel

# GASTON ZVI ICKOWICZ 1974

---

Visual artist Gaston Zvi Ickowicz captures the aftermath of various events: a spent bonfire, a scorched field burnt in the course of a military bombing, a sand avalanche in the desert, the rocks used to create a roadblock, or the ruins of an ancient settlement. This strategy documents the traces of different processes and events and explores the definitions of memory, history, and culture that are revealed through the signs captured by the camera.

The journeys in which these images are taken are also related to a more general existential state, which involves a search for roots and a sense of belonging. In this context, the concept of time expanded: inevitably, the present, or “here-and-now” captured in these works, is viewed in relation to a chronological axis that constantly echoes the past.

Ickowicz studied photography at the Musrara School of Photography, Jerusalem, and art and photography at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem, in Israel. His work has been exhibited widely in Israel and abroad, including in Germany, France, Austria, and the United States, and it is featured in many permanent collections, including the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, the Ashdod Museum of Art, the Israel Museum, and the Museum on the Seam, all in Israel. He lives and works in Tel Aviv.



*Bet She'arim, 2010*  
*Inkjet on fine art paper*  
*59 1/16 x 72 13/16 in. (150 x 185 cm)*  
*Courtesy of the artist, Tel Aviv, Israel*



ALON  
KEDEM  
1982

---

Alon Kedem’s method of painting considers how one discerns and fashions reality—their link to the world and themselves. “I am interested in paintings that come together and deconstruct before your very eyes, and you are an active partner in their construction,” he says. “Painting is also a real attempt to meet, to see the other in the blended space of meanings.” Kedem is obsessed with painting and the limitless creative opportunities it affords within a set space. “I am also addicted to the engagement with matter, to the sensuality of a substance that transforms into an image, yet remains a substance: material blends with material, one image encounters another; the fruitful tension between eye and hand, between consciousness and the body, imaginary and real, virtual and actual. In the space of painting, the boundaries between all these categories blur and dissolve, and you are free to embark on a journey.”

Kedem earned both his Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts degrees from Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem, in Israel, and he studied as an exchange student at the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore. Winner of the Mitchell Presser Prize for Excellence in Painting and included in *100 Painters of Tomorrow* by Kurt Beers, his work has been widely exhibited throughout Israel. He lives and works in Jerusalem.



*Green Light, undated*  
Oil on canvas  
76 ¾ x 86 ½ in. (195 x 220 cm)  
Courtesy of the artist, Jerusalem, Israel



*Wach Wach, 2019*  
Oil on canvas  
82 ¼ x 67 in. (210 x 170 cm)  
Courtesy of the artist, Jerusalem, Israel

# RUBI LEBOVITCH 1974

---

Contemporary photographer Rubi Lebovitch twists familiar sights, giving them new context and meaning. *Bus Stop* is part of a series called *B Side*, named after a term coined in reference to records and cassettes, which had two sides. In the music industry, the A-side featured recordings the artist and recording company intended to be hits, while the B-side was a secondary recording not thought to be as strong. In Lebovitch's series, the B-side is neither of these. It "lacks both the splendor of the central and the otherness of the marginal," he says. The photos are pictures of "nowhere," anchored neither by depth nor orientation.

Lebovitch earned both his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and Master of Fine Arts degree from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem, in Israel. His work has been exhibited extensively around the globe, including in the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, and France. He has won several awards, among them Critical Mass top 50 and honorable mentions at the Moscow International Photos Awards and Prix de la Photographie. Lebovitch lives and works in Tel Aviv.



*Bus Stop, 2010. Inkjet on archival paper, 31 ½ x 47 ¼ in. (80 x 120 cm). Courtesy of the artist, Tel Aviv, Israel*



KEREN  
PAZ  
1974

---

Keren Paz creates medium- and large-scale oil paintings that are abstractions of landscapes. She uses concrete terrain as a starting point, from which she expands into the abstract as metaphors of the psyche, an essay to trace the spirit in the realm exterior to language. The work's large scale creates an impact that is both cognitive and physical, pushing further to the ambiguous exterior of language. Her latest series centers on the colors above and below the horizon. "There is something very strong about the vast color fields. They carry the quality of a silent and ambiguous desire craving to be fulfilled; It is this ambiguous desire that I want to reveal in my painting," she says.

Paz earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the School of Visual Arts, New York City, New York, and has exhibited in Tel-Aviv, Australia, and the United States.





*Untitled, 2017. Oil on canvas, 39 3/8 x 66 1/8 in. (100 x 170 cm). Courtesy of the artist, Tel Aviv, Israel*



GIL  
RIVA  
1976

---

Gil Riva is a multidisciplinary artist, a TV presenter, and a media person. His work deals with pop culture, consumerism, passion, and sublimation. *Candy Light*, a mixed-media work commissioned for the Embassy, is an object that explores temptation, pleasure, and guilt. The work, both a sculpture and a light fixture, includes America's iconic stars and stripes.



*Candy Light, 2017*

*Mixed media*

*7 7/8 x 7 7/8 x 15 3/4 in. (20 x 20 x 40 cm)*

*Courtesy of the artist, Hod Hasharon, Israel*



REUVEN  
RUBIN  
1893–1974

---

Romanian-born Reuven Rubin immigrated to Israel in 1912 and settled in Jerusalem. He identified with the biblical country of Israel—its people and sunlit land full of blossoming flowers and fruit. In his language of imagery, using earth tones and simple techniques, he captured biblical parables in a magical and extraordinary way. He often drew the countryside and its inhabitants, using his unique vision to transfigure them into ethereal scenes.

Rubin studied at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem, in Israel and the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts and the Academie Colarossi, both in Paris, France. He was part of the first Israeli diplomatic envoy to Romania, and his works are featured in collections of museums such as the Musée d'art Moderne, Paris, and the Modern Museum of Art and the Jewish Museum, both in New York, among others.



*Flowers Bouquet  
in Caesarea, 1968*  
Oil on canvas  
35 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 45 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in.  
(90 x 116 cm)  
Courtesy of the  
Rubin Museum,  
Tel Aviv, Israel



28 | 29

RAQUEL  
SANCHEZ  
1968

---


To Raquel Sánchez, the art of intuitive nature is the process of painting while openly experiencing knowing without knowing. The canvas speaks to and for the artist and vice versa. This relationship continues even once the brushes have been cleaned.

Intuition is the undefinable comfort with ambiguity we wear during moments of each day. It is the powerful drive that contains us within the uncontainable. Intuitive painting is the amorphous and structureless finding its place. Sánchez's art captures spaces and spaces of time; it is connected with archetypal moments and poetic renditions within and of landscapes.

Sánchez, the daughter of Brooklyn painter Ellen Lapidus and Venezuela's National Poet, Juan Sánchez Peláez, is also an accomplished poet. Born in Paris, she spent parts of her childhood in Spain, England, Venezuela, and Morocco. Sánchez is a Ph.D. candidate at New York University, New York City. She earned her master's degree in social work at Yeshiva University, New York, where she also works as an adjunct professor. She moved to Israel in 1994 and worked on government policy reform to help English-speaking youth in crisis, a project she remains connected to.



*Galilee Landscape, 2016*  
*Oil on canvas*  
*31 ½ x 27 ¾ in. (80 x 70 cm)*  
*Courtesy of the artist and Rosenbach*  
*Contemporary, Jerusalem, Israel*



RONEN  
SHARABANI  
1974

---

Ritual, struggle, faith, and politics take center stage in Ronen Sharabani's work, not for didactic purposes but as the gateway for transformational experiences. Profoundly influenced by his time in Israel, Sharabani's films and videos blend movement, performance, architecture, and light into intensely visual and sensory projects. Musical scores, replete with chanting and techno-like sounds, often overlay Sharabani's moving images, allowing the films to be at once secular and spiritual. He has exhibited large-scale video installations around the world and held a solo show at the Gutman Museum in Tel Aviv.





*Slot #A, 2017*

*Video on framed screen*

*36 5/8 x 20 7/8 in. (93 x 53 cm)*

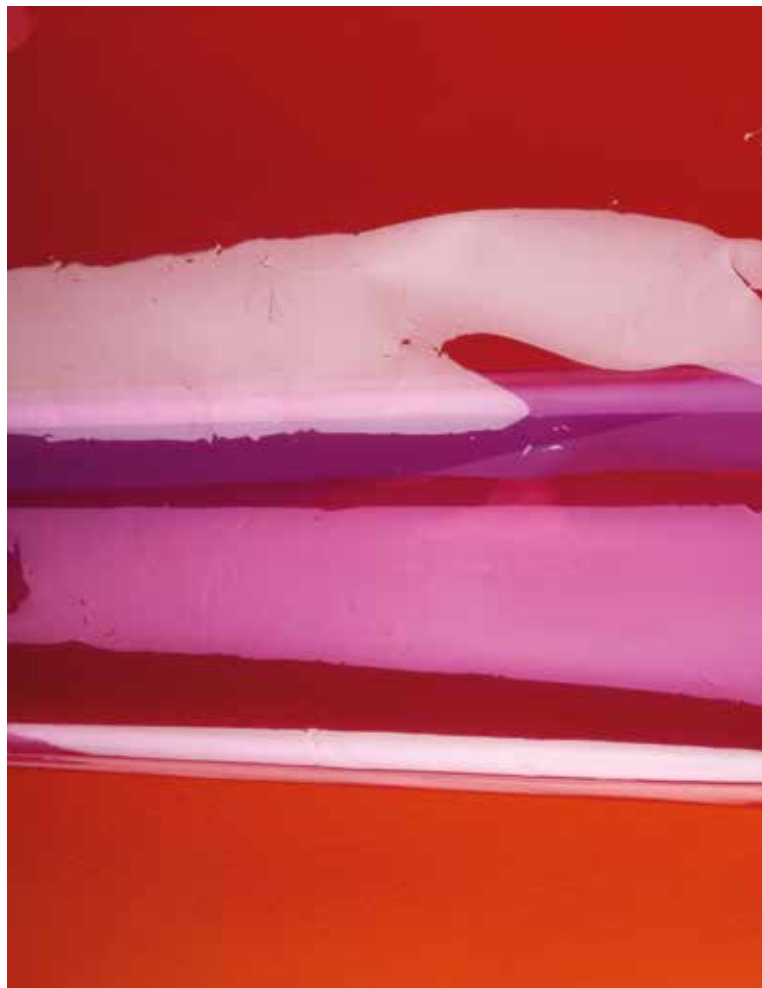
*Courtesy of the artist, Tel Aviv, Israel*



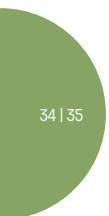
DANIEL  
SHERIFF  
1969

---

Daniel Sheriff's process deals with the relevance of photography as the medium of "truth" and raises questions of authenticity and misinformation. His work looks more like an abstract painting than a photograph. He creates dreamlike scenes embedded in colors and sensuality that derive from photography.



*(346 On Canvas), undated  
Inkjet on archival paper  
47 ¼ x 39 ¾ in. (120 x 100 cm)  
Courtesy of the artist, Tel Aviv, Israel*



TAL  
SHOCHAT  
1974

---

Tal Shochat is a photographer and video artist known for a meticulous style. For the photographic series *Trees*, critics stated she “cleaned every branch and leaf before shooting five fruit trees that grow in Israel – peach, almond, pomegranate, apple, and persimmon – at their peak of ripeness against a black background,” as part of her process. In *Rimon*, a pomegranate tree is lit like a monument and photographed against a Persian rug to isolate it from the landscape, emphasizing the symbolic nature of trees as sources of abundance, endurance, and fertility.

Shochat’s work can be found in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California; the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Other venues to exhibit her work include the National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia; the Nevada Museum of Art, Reno; the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel; the Haifa Museum of Art, Israel; the Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Israel; and the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, India. In 2005 she received the Israeli Ministry of Education and Culture Prize for a Young Artist. Shochat lives and works in Tel Aviv.



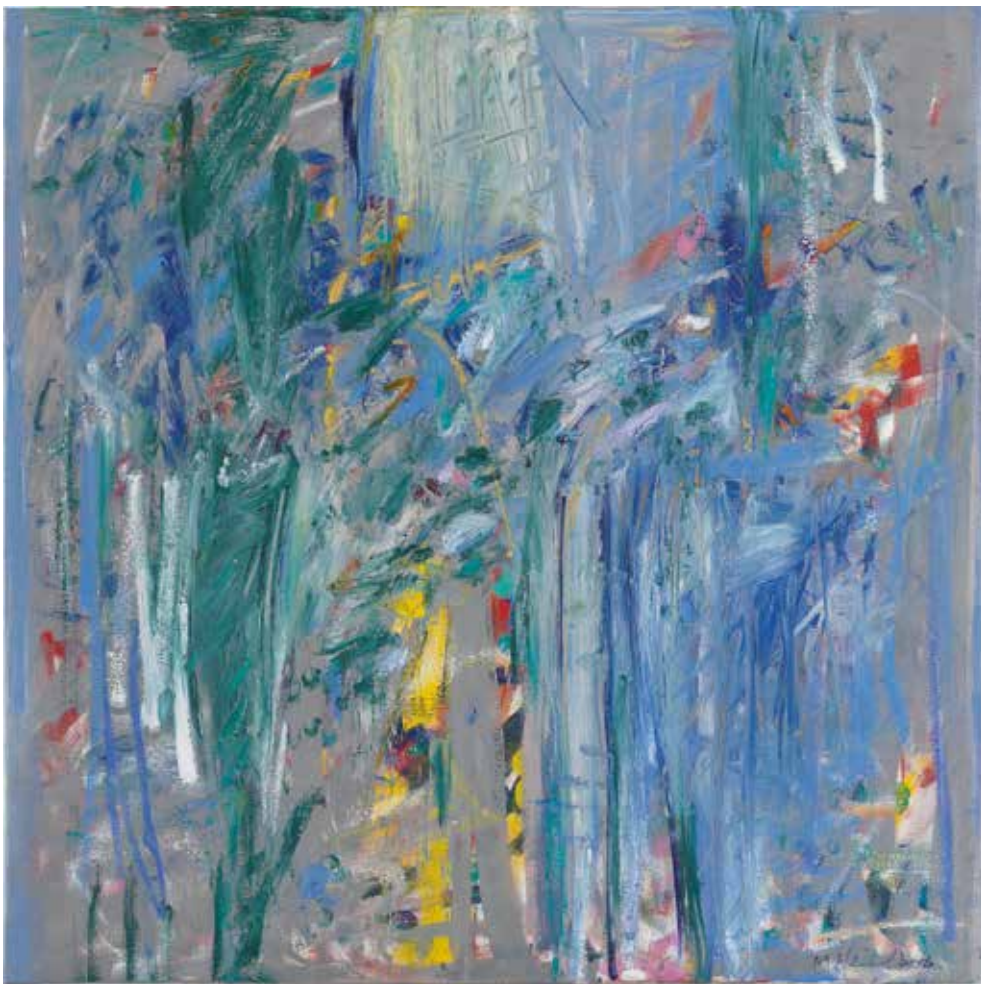
*Rimon (Pomegranate), 2016*  
*Inkjet on archival paper*  
*47 ¼ x 59 ⅙ in. (120 x 150 cm)*  
*Courtesy of the artist and Rosenfeld*  
*Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel*

MINDY  
WEISEL  
1947

“To love fully, to be open to life, to give gratitude has been my lifelong exploration as a painter.”

Mindy Weisel’s parents survived Auschwitz, and she was born in Bergen-Belsen, Germany, a then refugee camp. Her practice, which includes a method of action-painting, is inextricably linked to the experience of the Holocaust and the existential questions of life. Upon moving to Israel, she said, “Living and painting in Jerusalem fulfills my dream of expressing the survival of beauty.” Weisel explores emotions through color, gestural marks, surface tension, and composition to represent profound expressions of beauty, reconciliation, and healing over human tragedy, loss, and destruction.

Weisel has exhibited throughout the United States and Israel, and her work is held in permanent collections worldwide.



*Of Silence, 2016*  
*Oil on canvas*  
*35 <sup>13</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 35 <sup>13</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in. (91 x 91 cm)*  
*Courtesy of the artist and Rosenbach*  
*Contemporary, Jerusalem, Israel*

