



## STUDIO WORKS BY ISRAELI STREET ARTISTS

April 16 – December 20, 2023 Sara Hurand, AIA, Curator Roe Green Gallery, Jewish Federation of Cleveland, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Building

#### Sara Hurand, AIA, Curator

**Sara Hurand** is an architect, social activist, and creative strategist. Among her non-profit volunteer work, she is on the boards of Sheatufim: Strategies for Social Impact, FRONT International, and she co-founded the national awardwinning Jewish Arts and Culture Lab in Cleveland, OH. She now lives in Tel Aviv. Sara holds a Master of Architecture from Harvard University and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Environmental Design from Parsons School of Design.



## STUDIO WORKS BY ISRAELI STREET ARTISTS

Street art is part of the experience of Israel, especially in densely populated urban contexts like Tel Aviv, Haifa, and the Talpiot neighborhood of Jerusalem. Painting in public places empowers artists to claim space, make it their own, and communicate to you, or anyone who happens by it.

Many artists use street painting as a way to make visible their inner searches of personal identity, or make a social or political statement, or just to have fun.

To paint on the street takes self-confidence, even hubris on the part of the artist to feel that their work has a place in the public realm. Often Israeli street artists say, "I walked by this place and felt it needed to be painted by me." Sometimes an immigrant to Israel feels foreign and out of place, so the act of painting makes an environment feel more familiar.

This exhibition gathers studio works by sixteen Israeli street artists to give us a sense of Israel, the place, through their eyes and hands. A cacophony of styles and colors brings you the visual noise you would encounter on the streets of Israel.

~ Sara Hurand

To schedule group tours or individual visits, email israelarts@jewishcleveland.org or call 216-593-2890.

For information or to purchase works, contact Debbie Yasinow, dyasinow@jewishcleveland.org or 216-593-2890.

## **BROKEN FINGAZ**









**Lost Summer**, 2021 Series of six hand printed silkscreen prints on paper 8.3 in x 11.7 in Not for sale

#### Artists known as Tant, Deso, Kip, Unga, b. Haifa, Israel

"Lost Summer", is a series of six small prints, hand printed by the artists, Tant, Deso, Kip and Unga, who make up the collaborative, Broken Fingaz. The compositions straddle abstraction and figuration, and are the result of an experimental hand off between the artists.

Broken Fingaz is not only one of the most famous and influential street art crews in Israel, they are also recognized as influencers around the world with powerful mural installations, fashion, music videos and album covers, graphics, collaborations with other acclaimed artists, and museum exhibitions. These small prints are a tiny taste of this crew's big impact.

Born and raised in the northern port city of Haifa, the artists started working together in 2001 as high schoolers. They are constantly researching and experimenting. There is an eclectic fusion of influences and techniques such as,

Ephraim Moses Lilien- a Polish art nouveau illustrator and one of the founders of Bezalel Academy for Art and Design in 1906, vintage comics and consumer packaging, Japanese woodblock prints, Arabic calligraphy and regional references.

www.brokenfingaz.com www.instagram.com/brokenfingaz/





#### **ON THE STREET**



Neve Shanan neighborhood, South Tel Aviv



Haifa, 2018

Dusseldorf, Germany,

2016

## **ADI GERSHON**



Slightly Transparent, 2021 Collage of prints on wooden board 71.25 x 47.25 in

\$2,500



*Fragile Moment,* 2020 Acrylic and watercolor on canvas 15.75 x 15.75 in, framed \$800



**Transparent People**, 2021 Acrylic and watercolor on canvas 18 x 22.75 in, framed \$1,000

#### **ON THE STREET**

#### **Adi Gershon**, b. Israel Grandparents b. Greece, Turkey, Ukraine, Poland

Adi Gershon creates a pause in time with spacious compositions in her paintings. People face away from the viewer and are removed from their environments, inviting contemplation and a sense of sanctity of the moment. During national isolation periods, Adi created a series of visually poetic paste ups (works that are pre-printed on vinyl or paper backing, and then pasted on street walls with glue), in the shapes of animals and people in dreamy colors. Her street art is a reverse of her studio work, giving presence in the public realm the unseen pain that "transparent" people, as the artist calls them, were suffering.

Adi is a studio artist and only executed her first street art during the pandemic as a response to feelings of alienation. The large collage on board contains salvaged paste ups that spent time on the streets of Tel Aviv, and later retrieved and collaged together, bringing with them the life and wear of the city into a studio piece.

www.adigershon.com







**Untitled**, 2023 Mixed Media 34.5 x 31 in \$6,000

#### Dede, b. Israel

Grandparents immigrated from Poland

There is a story of the streets in Dede's mixed media collage, Untitled. Dede uses references to animals who are on the run, like sparrows and ibex found in the desert. He fashions these animals out of reclaimed building materials.

Early in his career, his studio was in a neighborhood undergoing reconstruction and gentrification. Homeless and displaced people scavenged the same discarded building materials for their temporary shelters as he did for his artwork. He felt kindred in their company.

Dede works in layers using found materials that he manipulates, destroys, and gives life again in new ways. The process is much like the grit, transformation, salvation, and even beauty that is on the streets.

Dede is famous for painting bandaids on buildings, a symbol of healing.

www.dedebandaid.com www.instagram.com/dedebandaid/

**ON THE STREET** 



*Searching for Lodz,* 2016, Poland, city of origin of the artist's family who perished during the Holocaust

#### **DEDE & NITZAN**



**Untitled**, 2019 Mixed Media Not for sale

#### Nitzan Mintz, b. Israel

Descended from Shimon Rokach, b. Jerusalem, founder of the first modern Jewish quarter near Jaffa, Neve Tzedek, in 1887

Nitzan's art brings poetry into the physical world. The artist works with found materials, often scavenged from the streets and manipulated, destroyed, reconstructed into visual poetry. On the streets, the poems are either painted or pasted up. Nitzan uses Hebrew and English letters in her poems, and even if you don't understand the meaning, the large block letters evoke visceral emotion like a personal outcry.

The historic font, Haim, designed by Yaakov Haim Levitt in Warsaw in the 1930s in the Bauhaus style, has a powerful connotation to modern Hebrew readers, as it has and continues to be used by major newspapers for election campaigns, political ads, and death announcements.



**Untitled**, 2021 Mixed Media 30 x 35.75 in \$6,000

In English, this untitled piece translates to, **"Seems to be that my biggest fears are happening right now,"** a deeply personal expression yet one that many can relate to. Nitzan's street art leverages this emotional connection between the artist and the public, as they are confronted by the artist's deep feelings in the public arena. Nitzan connects to people on the street while she is working and after, when the murals take on a life of their own.

www.nitzanmintz.com www.instagram.com/nitzanmintz/



Photo: Nitzan Mintz

STREET

THE

NO

#### My Kind Mother,

decaying paste up, Tel Aviv, 2018

My kind mother returned from heaven, accompanied by angels and suitcases, collapsing on the sofa Breaking the tip of her tooth on dinner's fish My kind mother Rounded out in the hips, falling asleep on any pillow that crosses her path Guilty of nothing Loving her children My kind mother, her little eyes fixed like scarabs in her face My kind mother, wanting me to see the big picture The sum of her good parts And I choose Dad.



Historic Synagogue Ostrov, Poland, 2018

There's nothing wrong with legs. They don't go away by themselves Is there anyone up in the thigh Up the spine He is aiming his eye further. Legs can float now Without feeling the heavy heart And the longing the stomach contains The legs are not a prison And it's all as light as a Feather



Queen, with Dede, Jerusalem, 2020



Dede on the left, Nitzan Mintz on the right, repainted in Tel Aviv, 2023

If you will love Me I will brighten The room Strong As a firefly I will win The sun

Photo: Dede and Nitzan Mintz

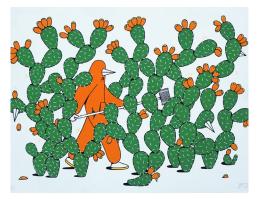
## **BROTHERS OF LIGHT**



Back to Back, 2018 Acrylic on wood 21.25 x 13.75 in \$1,200



Spiral Life, 2019 Acrylic on canvas 25.5 x 29.5 in \$2,000



Sabres Hunter, 2022 Silkscreen on paper 19.75 x 27.5 in \$300

Elna and Gab, brothers, together known as Brothers of Light, b. 1987, 1981, Jerusalem, Israel Parents b. Argentina and Morocco

Brothers of Light paint utopian scenes using bright colors inspired by local culture, and travels to Argentina and Morocco, the birthplaces of their parents. The narratives in their mural and studio work often tell idealized stories, informed by Israeli skateboarding culture as well as art books and heirlooms, tea pots, rugs, and patterns they grew up with in their family home.

Look for regional references, like the hamsa, the symbolic hand in Jewish and Islamic cultures representing protection, the moon, and sabras- cactus fruit, and a slang term for Jewish people born in Israel and before, in British Palestine.

The bird-like character comes from the hoodies and masks the artists wear while working with spray paint on the streets, and evolved to evoke the freedom birds represent; freedom of being outside, and the freedom of being creative.

The brothers feel that working on the streets and being creative is the first act of freedom, and being expressive and

www.brothersoflight.net

# STREE THE Z O



Talpiot neighborhood, Jerusalem, from the Walls Festival 2018



Romania, 2022



Jerusalem School of the Arts, 2022

creative is a way to do something positive.

www.instagram.com/brothersoflight\_official/

Photo: Brothers of Light

## **BEN MASHIAH**



**Athens, 2022** Spray paint on wood 51.25 x 30.25 in \$2,000

**Ben Mashiah**, also known as "Neo-Apollonia" and "Noir", b. Israel, 1995 Paternal grandmother b. Jerusalem Maternal family from Egypt, Sudan, Iraq, and France

Ben Mashiah finds source material in found objects that lack context or information, objects representing pieces of a broken past.

Athens is a painting based on a vintage photo purchased in a flea market in Athens, Greece. With no name or year in the photo, the artist picks up where the traces end, merely a boy with no history. Instead of loudly expelling bright narratives, Ben's work invites reflection through mystery, questioning, and unknowing. Who is this boy? Even though we know nothing of him, the boy has now become important to us, at least with a new interpretation and context.

Ben's studio paintings and street art favor a dark palette, created with spray paint applied with expert precision. The artist maintains control of the medium by being alert to nuances in the sound, temperature, and varying conditions of the spray cans he paints with.

Ben lives and works in Haifa, originally working with graffiti and street art with a small but strong community of street artists. Ben honed his craft on the streets through sport-like competition and later began his intense studio work.

www.instagram.com/neo.apo/



Haifa murals



## **PESH VISUALS**



**Untitled** Acrylic on canvas 32 x 32 in \$950



**Untitled** Acrylic on canvas 28 x 39 in \$950



32 x 19.5 in



37.75 x 19 in



22 x 31.5 in



19.75 x 33 in

**Untitled** Spray on MDF \$900 each

Lior Bentov, also known as Pesh Visuals, b. Ukraine, 1984, immigrated to Israel, 1990

Lior's compositions are constructed from a self imposed visual rule system that he applies to studio works and murals. The artist's rule system provides him a sense of metaphorical certainty, where lines, colors, and shapes adhere to the system, as though things only fit in certain ways. You can find your own answers to his riddles in these studio works by noticing similarities between pieces and observing how shapes and colors repeat. Imagery includes hands, eyes, birds, faces, as well as architectural shapes. Lior's street art is often at a very large scale, covering entire multi-story buildings with the shapes and colors of his visual language. The architecture adds another layer to the artist's rule system where he compromises the system in the face of the idiosyncrasies and irregularities in a building facade.

Lior finds painting on the streets more freeing than studio art that is created in relative isolation with little context.

www.instagram.com/pesh\_studio/



South Tel Aviv, 2021



Talpiot, Jerusalem, 2021



Rahat, predominantly Bedouin city in the Southern District of Israel

## **MURIELLE STREET ART**



**Technology My World** Mixed media on wood 14 x 16 in \$900



**Technology Babylon** Mixed media on wood 31 x 28 in \$1,600



*My Universe* Mixed media on wood 14 x 16 in \$900

Murielle Cohen, also known as Murielle Street Art, b. Montreal, Canada, immigrated to Israel as a young adult

Murielle Street Art is a pioneer of collage on the streets, pasting compositions within wooden frames glued to building walls, found objects, photos, fabrics, with stenciled messages in English. She starts with a topic and then explores it through street art, studio works, and film.

Her collages from the series, Dismantled Technology, feature images of silent film stars who were discarded with technological advancement of sound. In these works, the artist questions how easily people are replaceable if we "take their souls away."

Murielle became interested in artistic expression after witnessing the 9/11 attacks in New York City, and later living

on a kibbutz near the border of Gaza. Her first street collages came from collecting discarded wooden frames from the construction of bomb shelters in her community.

Murielle is an avid recycler and minimalist, and believes that working on the streets is a way to give things away rather than accumulate them.

Since 2016, Murielle has hosted many artistic interns through the Masa youth program in Israel and considers herself one of the first mothers in the street art community.

www.muriellestreetart.com www.instagram.com/murielle\_street\_art/





>hotos: Murielle Street Art

## **OR BAR EL**





**Space Out** Digital print on canvas 18 x 24 in \$120

Street Cat Digital print on canvas 18 x 24 in \$120



**Highs and Lows** Digital print on canvas 18 x 24 in \$120



**Diaper Change** Digital print on canvas 24 x 36 in \$150

#### Or Bar El, b. Israel

Or Bar El's street art is illustrative and bright, stemming from the artist's deep yearning to uplift and inspire people by taking them on a journey through his narrative imagination. The artist is in constant dialogue with what he encounters in everyday life and how he translates these experiences into art. What appears magical and otherworldly in his work usually stems from a simple moment, like a kid focusing on a phone, or a mother changing a baby's diaper while a plane flies overhead.

The artist films videos that connect these simple moments to the dreamworlds he creates. Look for a QR code on the side of his digitally printed illustrations to view the artist's videos on your smartphone. Or is inviting you to see what he sees, literally, from his vantage point. The artist also wants to surround you with his visions, through street art and mass produced digital prints that can be printed on demand in sizes that you choose at affordable prices.

www.orbarel.com www.instagram.com/or\_bar\_el/



Cousins Meetup, Dubai, 2021

Sadness, 2021



## **IGOR REVELIS**





Nude Descending-Ascending, 2017 Enamel on wood 22.75 x 7.5 in, each / 22.75 x 33 in, complete work \$4,800

Blue Sky Attitude Antidote, 2021 Spray paint and acrylic on canvas 35.5 x 27 in \$5,000

Igor Revelis, also known as Klone, b. 1983, Ukraine, immigrated to Israel as a child

Igor Revelis, the artist known as Klone for much of his career, started graffiti tagging outdoors in an effort to make the unfamiliar place, Israel, more personal, after immigrating as a child from Ukraine.

Igor paints mythological figures and animals that float on canvas, or the wall of a building. This disconnect from an environment challenges the sense of stability, belonging, and identity, yet the beauty and balance in the compositions

brings a sense of peace. By giving the erasure of identity a visually poetic form, he remakes his own identity, and shares it as an offering to others.

Igor's imagery has roots in Ukrainian folktales of his childhood telling a lesson of good and bad, imparting a moral, and passing from generation to generation.

www.mutualart.com/Artist/Klone www.instagram.com/kloneyourself/



Better Together, Tel Aviv, 2021



Tel Aviv, 2017



Working Class Hero, 2017

## SWAN



**Room**, 2019 Oil on canvas 25.5 x 17.75 in \$2,000



**Self Portrait**, 2021 Oil on canvas 25 x 21 in \$2,400

**Noam Dushy**, Swan.er, b. Israel Grandparents b. Poland and Turkey

Swan's studio works have the warmth and intimacy of the artist in his home. A self portrait with a beverage in hand, and a still life of his table, shows the context in which he is painting. Studio works provide the artist the opportunity to work with paint as a technical medium, exploring the material qualities, like brush strokes, mixing, and colors, in addition to the challenging choices the artist makes of imagery and composition.

Noam grew up on a moshav and connected with a small crew of high school students who were also exploring street art. It was easy to meet because there aren't many public buildings in a small place so they found themselves at the few available places that were street art worthy.

Swan lived in Haifa for several years, joining that community of street artists before moving to Tel Aviv where he works professionally in the field of illustration and graphic design.

Noam's early graffiti influences include international artists, Revok, ewok, and 5mp. Painting influences include American artists Cleon Peterson and Shepard Fairey, and Israeli artists Boaz Noy and Anna Lukashevsky.

www.instagram.com/swan.er/



Levinsky Market, Tel Aviv



Dead Sea Gallery Minus 430, 2018

#### SHIMON WANDA



Oil on wood 18 x 13 in



Deeper Depths, 2020 Oil on wood 23.75 x 15.75 in \$7,100



Trip to Nowhere, 2021 Oil on wood 21.25 x 16.75 in \$6,400



Kalkidan, 2021 Oil on wood 11.75 x 11.5 in \$5,200



Mamit, 2022 Oil on wood 9.75 x 9.75 \$5,200

Shimon Wanda, also known as Shimda, b. Israel Parents immigrated from Ethiopia

Shimon is an artist committed to intuition and discovery, avoiding the limitations of a singular style. The figures in his paintings are rendered through expressive choices, such as level of abstraction, brushstroke, and colors, and less the narrative or context of the piece.

The still life was painted during a period of isolation during the pandemic. The difference between the portraiture and the still life captures this solitary time, yet the artist paints the plant lovingly as though it is also a figure.

The artist's parents' challenging migration to Israel from Ethiopia, and Ethiopian Israeli identity is a theme he explores in his work.

Shimon was born and raised in the Kiryat Haim neighborhood of Haifa and studied engineering before becoming an artist.

www.shimonwanda.com



Florentine neighborhood, Tel Aviv, 2020



Battae Ethiopian Israeli Heritage Center, 2019



#### THE MISSK



**Portrait of her mother**, 2012 Acrylic on wood 37 x 36.5 in \$1,250



*Home*, 2012 Acrylic on wood 33.75 x 24 in \$1,400



Untitled, 2019 Silkscreen on paper 27.5 x 19.5 in \$480



Untitled, 2018 Silkscreen on paper 27.5 x 19.5 in \$530



**Untitled**, 2019 Silkscreen on paper 27.5 x 19.5 in \$420

Karen Missk, also known as "The Missk" b. Ukraine, immigrated to Israel as a child

Karen Missk remembers emigrating to Israel with her mother from Ukraine as a child, told in advance that her new home would have lots of fruit. She was given oranges on the airplane and has confirmed that Israel is abundant with fruit.

On the street, Missk's murals are humorous and uplifting. Missk loves the physical aspect of painting in a large format on the street, which she describes as a form of dance. The murals often include English song lyrics written in Hebrew letters from annoyingly catchy songs for the public to decipher. Missk imagines her street work sparking smiles and joyful surprise on the street. Can you read the lyrics on these prints and guess the songs?

Missk's studio work is more personal, exploring autobiographical memories of herself and her mother and growing up as an only child. In her work, Missk explores women's themes such as the story of Lilith, a mythical figure in Jewish stories that challenges traditional power dynamics between men and women.

In the portrait of her mother with yellow flowers over her face, the artist reflects on her mother's playfulness with branches and trees. She says that many people who grew up in Soviet era Russia played with nature in the absence of toys.

www.instagram.com/themissk



Nachalat Binyamin, 2023



Mesilat Wolfson St, Tel Aviv, 2022

#### **MICHAL RUBIN**



Nachalat Binyamin, Tel Aviv



Florentine neighborhood, Tel Aviv



Nachalat Binyamin, Tel Aviv



Nachalat Binyamin, Tel Aviv

#### Michal Rubin, b. Israel

Grandparents immigrated from Greece and Poland

Michal has a desire to connect with people on a deep level. She started her career in education and was drawn to tattoo and street art thinking her impact on people could be made bigger. She began both at the same time, painting intricate and colorful whales, flowers, hummingbirds on the streets on a large scale, and inking them directly onto bodies on a small scale, but very personal.

For Michal, street art is a way to communicate what she has inside and share these feelings with others. The sense of community comes from personal expression. The whale symbolizes a "fish out of water", which she was feeling at the time she painted it. A passerby may connect the whale's proximity to the ancient port city of Jaffa, a short walk away, where the biblical Jonah set sail and was swallowed by a whale.

We printed Michal's street art on temporary, translucent film so we could bring a sense of what it is like to encounter these murals in person.

www.instagram.com/michalirubin/











**Untitled series**, 2022 Paint on paper Approx. 25 x 32 in, each \$900 each



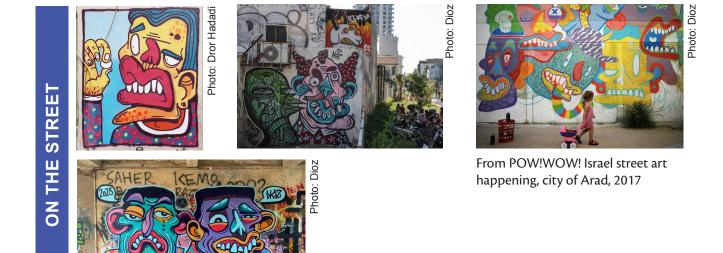
**Guy Bloom**, also known as Dioz, b. Israel Parents immigrated as teenagers with their families from Lithuania and Ukraine

This series of works on paper are cut from a large, performative installation created while the artist was traveling in Mexico.

Dioz's organic figures are both humorous and grotesque, striking a surprising balance. Each figure appears to be someone who is both lighthearted and complex, as though they have been through a lot and have stories to tell.

Dioz's figures usually face the viewer, with articulated teeth and exaggerated facial features that beg for attention. The figures wear clothes with frilly prints and hats, and are sometimes accompanied by animals. One can imagine these weathered beings saying, look at me!

www.instagram.com/dioz\_/



Abandoned army base near the Syrian border, Golan Heights, 2023

#### FALUJA



**Urbandala**, 2017 Paint on wood 32 in diameter \$2,000



*Winged Heart*, 2021 Reclaimed wood, solid red eucalyptus wood 34 x 47.5 in \$4,000

**Itamar Paloge**, also known as Faluja, b. Israel Grandparents b. Poland, Czech Republic, Romania

Faluja's artistic creations integrate salvaged materials, spiritual and ritual iconography, flora and fauna. His studio works are made of "leftovers," as he calls them, exterior refuse that is recycled back into the world, uncontained by the private gallery or studio and decidedly not made of precious art materials.

The artist wants to be in direct dialogue with the viewer, the passerby, the public, and the environment. The outer flower of Urbandala is inspired by the Mandala, a spiritual symbol in eastern traditions using geometric configurations, while

the inner flowers are cut with symbols from street signs and straight lines, language from the urban landscape.

Winged Heart is a material testament to love and hope, born of scrap wood shaped into outstretched wings with a strong, yet imperfect sculpted heart.

Faluja is known for monumentally scaled sculpture created for Midburn, the Israeli version of Burning Man, an annual outdoor music and culture festival in the desert.

www.faluja.net www.instagram.com/faluja/



Haifa Street Art Festival, 2020



The other boy from south Tel Aviv, part of Contact Point Jerusalem Season of Culture and the Israel Museum, 2013



*Co-Existence,* from Basic Colors Outdoor Exhibition at an abandoned army base near the Lebanon border, 2012



#### Roe Green, Honorary Producer



The Cleveland Israel Arts Connection is a program of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, connecting our community with the most dynamic 21st century cultural experiences that Israel has to offer. Working in partnership with Northeast Ohio's leading arts organizations, we strive to identify, enhance, promote, and create unique and engaging Israeli cultural opportunities.

Daniel N. Zelman, Board Chair Erika B. Rudin-Luria, President Roe Green and Erica Hartman-Horvitz. Co-chairs, Cleveland Israel Arts Connection Advisory Group

Roe Green Gallery, Jewish Federation of Cleveland Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Building 25701 Science Park Drive, Cleveland, OH 44122



is generously sponsored by

#### **ROE GREEN FOUNDATION**









www.jewishcleveland.org/arts

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation

To schedule group tours or individual visits, email israelarts@jewishcleveland.org or call 216-593-2890. For information or to purchase works, contact Debbie Yasinow, dyasinow@jewishcleveland.org or 216-593-2890.