

ISRAELI



PAINTEERS



Sea of Galilee : Mordechai Avniel



Flying Reindeer : Ruth Bamberger

Israeli Painters



An Exhibition arranged by Israel and the Australian State
Galleries for showing throughout the Commonwealth
as part of the celebrations on the occasion
of Israel's Tenth Anniversary

APRIL 1958

Australian Itinerary 1958-9

The National Art Gallery of New South Wales
DIRECTOR : MR. HAL MISSINGHAM

The Queensland National Art Gallery
DIRECTOR : MR. ROBERT HAINES

The Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, Hobart
DIRECTOR : DR. W. BRYDEN

The National Gallery of South Australia
DIRECTOR : MR. ROBERT CAMPBELL

Art Gallery of Western Australia

Some pictures in the Exhibition are for sale.

All enquiries should be made to

The Legation of Israel
84 Pitt Street, Sydney
BW 7800, BW 2082

Foreword

We are perhaps inclined nowadays to overdo our uses of the word "unique". Yet I think that I may, with unarguable detachment, claim uniqueness for this exhibition of canvases by contemporary Israeli artists.

It is the very first projection of modern Israel art in Australia. It is a representative assembly of works which express in line and colour the ideas, the urges and responses of the very youngest national school of painters in the world today. And it is a symbol and a symptom of that unprecedented event in history which is the attainment of its first decade of breathless and brilliant survival by the nascent Republic of Israel.

Possibly there is much in this collection that might be challenged as unduly abstract or unreal. With such critiques I here take no issue. But I can soberly aver that the environment and conditions, in which the imagination and originality of our artists have thus assumed outward form, are unmistakably real, dynamically alive and rewarding: an Israel of democracy and social progress, of economic stability, of security sturdily defended, and of an art and culture that thrive on hazards, that draw their inspiration from troubles, and their vision from a great, new, spiritual adventure.

To the Trustees and Directors of the National Galleries of Australia I record my most grateful thanks for the exceptional interest, understanding and encouragement, and for the invaluable co-operation and acceptance of administrative and other responsibilities, which have made this exhibition possible.

MORDEKHAI NUROCK,
MINISTER OF ISRAEL

Sydney April 1958

Isaac AMITAI

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Musical Composition | oil, 100 × 66 |
| 2 | Synagogue in Safed | oil, 92 × 66 |
| 3 | Oriental Rug | oil, 55 × 70 |

Born in Jerusalem, fifth generation in the country. Studied at the Bezalel School, Jerusalem; with the painter Neroni in Cairo; and for four years at the Ecole Supérieure d'Arts, Paris.

In 1935 moved to Tel Aviv, and in 1951 to the Artists' Colony in Safed.

Since 1939, when he first exhibited in Tel Aviv, has had various shows throughout Israel and also participated in general and group exhibitions of the Artists' Association in Israel and abroad.

In 1950, held three exhibitions in England.

Lecturer on art.

Margot Lange ASCHEIM

- | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| 4 | On Deck at Night | oil, 56 × 66 |
| 5 | Light-house | oil, 61 × 51 |
| 6 | Sisters | oil, 66 × 56 |

1905 Born in Germany.

Studied at the Breslau Academy with Prof. Kaempfer, Academy for Women in Vienna, and in Paris.

Study travels in Italy and Egypt, and in 1927 for a prolonged period in Israel.

1934 Worked in Prague.

1935 Came to Israel and settled in Jerusalem where she still lives and works.

Member of the Artists' Society of Israel, exhibiting both there and abroad.

Her works are to be found in collections in Israel and America.

Mordechai AVNIEL

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| 7 | Mt. Carmel | watercolour, 35 × 50 |
| 8 | Galilee Landscape | watercolour, 35 × 50 |
| 9 | Sea of Galilee | watercolour, 35 × 50 |

1900 Born in Russia.

Studied at the Art School of Yekaterinsbourg.

1921 Immigrated to Israel (Palestine) as head of a group of young pioneers, working in the citrus groves near Petach Tikva.

1923-8 Persuaded by Prof. Boris Schatz to come to Jerusalem and further his art studies at the Bezalel School. Served as teacher and director of the Small Sculpture Section of Bezalel.

1932 Completed his studies, settled in Haifa.

Since 1941 has had numerous one-man shows throughout Israel, as well as several shows in the United States. Also participates regularly in the group exhibitions of the Painters' and Sculptors' Association of Israel.

1952 Received the Hermann Struck Prize.

His works are to be found in the museums of Tel Aviv and Haifa, as well as in many museums, public libraries and collections in the United States.

Ruth BAMBERGER

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|--------------|
| 10 | Isabelle | oil, 52 × 42 |
| 11 | Flying Reindeer | oil, 46 × 62 |
| 12 | Tiberias | oil, 44 × 70 |

1905 Born Basle.

1923-5 Art School, Zurich.

1926-30 Art School, Munich. Academy, Munich.

1930-4 Ran an Art Studio in Munich for

designs of textiles, carpets, wallpapers and murals.

1934 Immigrated to Israel.

1936–8 Worked with Jacob Steinhardt and Isidor Ascheim.

1949–50 Worked with Mordechai Ardon – Art Consultant in the Israel Ministry for Education and Culture.

Exhibitions:

1942 Bezalel Museum, Jerusalem.

1946 One-man show, Jerusalem. Bezalel Museum, Jerusalem. Exhibition of Applied Art. Joint Exhibition with 15 fellow artists, Jerusalem.

1948 Bezalel Museum. Graphic, textile designs. Member of the Artists' House and participating in every joint exhibition there.

Audrey BERGNER

13 Ein Hod oil, 46 × 62

14 Still-life oil, 54 × 81

15 Fish oil, 46 × 62

1927 Born in Sydney, Australia.

Studied at the National Gallery Art School in Melbourne, Australia.

1949–50 Travelled in Europe and America.

Settled in Israel in 1950.

Exhibited in Group Shows and held one-man exhibitions in Haifa and in Jerusalem (1957).

Alisa DOVER

16 A Street in Paddington oil, 37 × 50

Alisa Dover was an infant in arms when she came to Israel. From her early years she showed inclination and talent for designs and colours, and these aptitudes were encouraged by her teachers at school. Circumstances, however, prevented her from the systematic study of art.

Guided mainly by her own intuition and the observation of the work of contemporary artists in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, she painted landscapes and still life in watercolours. For some time she was a student of Professor Azarni.

In October 1954 she came to Sydney accompanying her husband who had been appointed Israel Consul in Australia. Under the stimulus of her new environment, she started to paint more frequently and took up oils under the tuition of Peter A. Penov, a former student of the Petersburg Academy and a pupil of Chuchoyev in Paris.

Although she is an amateur and does not belong to any particular school, Alisa Dover's scenic studies are of the French impressionist type.

Jacob EISENSCHER

17 Kiryat Anavim gouache, 50 × 62

18 Houses in Jerusalem
gouache, 50 × 62

19 View of Ein Karem gouache, 50 × 62

Born in Bukovina.

Graduated from the Art Academy in Vienna. Worked for five years in Paris, before immigrating to Israel in 1935.

Held many exhibitions in Vienna, Paris, Tel Aviv, London, Manchester, Bucharest and Jerusalem.

Participated in the Israel Section at the Biennale, Sao Paulo, in 1953.

Participated in the International exhibition, *Art et Travail*, in Geneva in 1957.

Nahum GUTMAN

20 Tiberias watercolour, 52 × 70

21 Synagogue of Meir
Baal Haness watercolour, 52 × 70

22 Old Olive Trees
watercolour, 52 × 70

1898 Born in Russia. His father later was one of the founders of Tel Aviv.

1905 Brought to Tel Aviv where he has lived ever since. Studied at the Bezalel Art School, Jerusalem, later studying art for six years in Vienna and Paris.

1931 First one-man show in Paris. Since

then he has exhibited widely and at various times in Brussels, Paris, South Africa, London, New York, as well as throughout Israel.

He received a Gold Medal at the International Exhibition, Paris, and a Prize at the Third Biennale at Sao Paulo. Also participated in the Israel Exhibition at the Biennale at Venice. Has also done much important work as a book illustrator, as author of illustrated books for children, and as stage designer for the Israel theatre.

Dan HOFFNER

23 Flower-girl oil, 70 × 32

24 The Angel oil, 68 × 28

25 Seated Figure oil, 51 × 67

1921 Born in Leipzig, Germany.

1936 Came to Israel where he has lived ever since.

1939 Received scholarship to the Bezalel School of Art and Crafts, and studied painting under the supervision of M. Ardon.

In addition to paintings and illustrations, created a "Shadow Theatre" which successfully toured Israel.

Assistant Director of the Art Teachers' College in Tel Aviv.

Published various articles on his new method of art education throughout the world, including the UNESCO Handbook on the subject.

Held many one-man shows in various centres in Israel.

Shimshon HOLZMAN

26 Mt. Hermon after Rain
watercolour, 50 × 70

27 Tiberias Landscape
watercolour, 50 × 70

28 Boats on the Banks of the
Sea of Galilee watercolour, 50 × 70

1908 Born in Austria.

1922 Came to Israel as a young pioneer and helped in the building of the new city of Tel Aviv.

1926 Began to study painting in a little studio in Tel Aviv, although drawing had come to him easily at an early age.

1929 Went to Paris for further study and development of his own style.

1936 First to receive the Dizengoff Prize, Tel Aviv, and in 1956 was again awarded the Dizengoff Prize. Was also first to receive the Hermann Struck Prize, Haifa.

Has exhibited often in the major cities of Israel, and has had a number of one-man shows in Paris, London and New York.

His works are to be found in the Tel Aviv Museum and in many private collections in America, France, England as well as Israel.

Grete KRAKAUER-WOLF

29 Root oil, 75 × 61

30 Monster oil, 76 × 97

31 Shells oil, 60 × 50

Passed her childhood and youth in Vienna, Austria.

She studied art in Vienna, Munich and Stuttgart.

Her pictures were exhibited in Vienna, Prague, Ostrau, London, Jerusalem, and at the Biennale in Venice. Some were acquired by museums in Vienna and Prague.

In 1925 she settled in Israel with her husband, the architect and artist, Leopold Krakauer.

Rudolf LEHMANN

32 Ostriches woodcut, 37 × 31

33 Owls woodcut, 40 × 30

34 Pigeon woodcut, 50 × 40

1903 Born in Berlin, Germany.

After secondary school learned the trades of smith and stone-cutter, completing apprenticeship and final examinations.

1923 Studied in the atelier of the animal sculptor, Ludwig Vordermayer, Berlin, learning to work in clay, plaster of Paris and wood.

1925 Attended an arts and crafts school in Berlin. Completed a three-year course in

sculpture and ceramics. Studied terracotta sculpture and relief modelling.

1933 Came to Israel and worked in Haifa and Kibbutz Yagur until 1937.

1937 Living, working and teaching in Jerusalem.

Since 1953 Spends half his time in the Artists' Village, Ein Hod, working and teaching, and the balance in Jerusalem.

One-man show at the Tel Aviv Museum.

1954 One-man show, Jerusalem.

Mordechai LEVANON

35 Safed gouache, 49 × 62

36 Ein Karem gouache, 56 × 76

37 Motza gouache, 75 × 57

1901 Born in Hungary.

1921 Settled in Israel.

1926 From childhood closely connected with art, and in this year joined the studio conducted by the Histadrut, Israel Workers' Federation.

Since then has been painting and exhibiting both in Israel and abroad.

Has his studio in Jerusalem where he paints in oil.

Arieh LUBIN

38 Safed Landscape oil, 73 × 60

39 Synagogue in Safed oil, 60 × 73

40 Wadi Musrara oil, 65 × 55

1897 Born in New York.

1913 Moved to Israel and became the first student from America at the Herzlia Gymnasium in Tel Aviv.

He returned to the United States to study at the Chicago Art Institute. He interrupted his studies to join the Jewish Battalion in World War I.

1922 Awarded travel and study prize by the Chicago Art Institute; studied at the museums of London, Belgium and Paris.

1923 Returned to Israel where he has been living ever since. Made a number of visits since then to France and Italy to study the works of various painters.

Exhibited mainly with groups, notably: Biennale, Venice, 1948 and 1950; Biennale, Sao Paulo, 1955; London, 1955; Lugano, 1956.

Yonah MACH

41 Jerusalem gouache, 50 × 70

42 Kurd Woman gouache, 70 × 50

43 Street in Jerusalem gouache, 70 × 50

1917 Born in Breslau, Germany. Began his art studies at the age of seventeen, but was forced to abandon them a year later.

1934 Immigrated to Israel and entered a Kibbutz.

1938 Joined the Special Night Squads of Wingate. Later, worked as a fisherman, in the fields, and at other tasks, painting only after working hours.

1940 The painter Jacob Steinhardt became his teacher.

1943 Held his first one-man show in Jerusalem, and thereafter in Haifa and other places in Israel.

1947 Went to Italy to study.

1949 Moved to Jerusalem where he has been living ever since, teaching art in the schools. Was among the founders of the Jerusalem Artists' House.

Participated in the collective exhibitions of the Israel Association of Artists and Sculptors.

His works have been acquired by private collectors, public institutions and the Bezalel Museum, Jerusalem.

1957 Received the Jerusalem Prize.

Zvi MAIROVICH

44 Birds at Play in the Evening oil, 52 × 63

45 Cactus Blossoming on a Hedge oil, 53 × 64

46 The Dead Sea in the Summer oil, 67 × 85

1909 Born in Poland. Educated in Berlin and Paris.

1934 Immigrated to Israel, settling in Haifa. One-man shows in Israel, Paris, New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Montevideo, etc.

1953 Participated in the Israel Section of the Biennale, Sao Paulo.

1956 Participated in the Israel Section of the Biennale, Venice.

His paintings are included in museums and private collections in Israel and in the United States.

Kaete Ephraim MARCUS

47 Ein Karem oil, 80 × 65

48 Sea of Galilee oil, 35 × 50

49 Ada oil, 45 × 28

Born in Breslau.

Studied at Karlsruhe, Breslau, Berlin and later Paris.

Since 1928 member of the Deutscher Künstlerbund.

Since 1930 member of the Rheingruppe, Dusseldorf.

Since 1934 settled in Israel, working in oils, gouache, and in sculpture.

Exhibited in Berlin, Breslau, Dresden, Dusseldorf, London, Paris, Zurich and throughout Israel, and several museums have acquired her works.

Chaim NAHOR

50 Intertwined Forms oil, 42 × 55

51 Triangular Forms in Space oil, 50 × 40

52 Composition in Brown oil, 51 × 78

1914 Born in Poland. While still an infant his family emigrated to Germany and it was there that he got his first schooling in decorative art.

1934 Came to Israel. Worked for a time in a Kibbutz, and then set himself up as a commercial artist.

Studied painting with the late Aharon Shemi, with Jacob Steinhardt and Edward Matuszak (now Matu of Paris). Studied mosaics and fresco and other wall techniques with Professor Orselli of Ravenna.

Taught at the Bezalel School, Jerusalem.

At present teaching at the Kibbutz Seminary, "Oranim" near Haifa.

Has taken part in a number of collective exhibitions in Israel, and has held several one-man shows in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa.

Samuel OVADIAHU

53 Safed I oil, 50 × 57

54 Roses oil, 46 × 38

55 Safed III oil, 38 × 46

1892 Born in Russia.

Studied at the Art Academy in Munich, with Professor Peter Helm.

For a few years served as art teacher at the Hebrew Gymnasium of Lodz.

1924 Immigrated to Israel where he has been living and painting ever since, participating in group shows of Israel artists.

Jacob PINS

56 Nude coloured woodcut, 66 × 24

57 Landscape coloured woodcut, 37 × 42

58 Eagle coloured woodcut, 40 × 27

1919 Born in Hoexter, Germany.

1936 Immigrated to Israel and joined a Kibbutz where he spent five years.

1941 Began to study graphic art and painting with Jacob Steinhardt in Jerusalem.

1945 First exhibition in Tel Aviv. Has exhibited widely ever since in both one-man shows and in group exhibitions. Was among the first group of artists to found the Jerusalem

Artists' House in 1949 and since then has frequently participated in the collective exhibitions of Jerusalem artists.

1953 Held a comprehensive exhibition at the Boston Public Library. He is well-known in the United States, and his works have been acquired by many museums, libraries and other institutions in New York, Boston, Washington, Paris and Israel.

1957 Awarded prize at the Graphic Art Exhibition in Tokyo, Japan.

Leo ROTH

59 Abraham's Visitors oil, 66 × 56

60 Arab Village oil, 56 × 66

61 Seated Figures oil, 66 × 56

1914 Born in Poland.

In his childhood his family moved to Germany and it was there that he received his first formal training in painting, attending evening classes.

1933 Immigrated to Israel and joined Kibbutz Afikim in the Jordan Valley, where he lives and works to this day. In the beginning, did his painting only after the hard working day, but in recent years devotes all his time to painting.

Twice went abroad for short periods for art study purposes.

Participates in the general and group exhibitions organised by the Israel Association of Artists and Sculptors, of which he is a member. One-man shows held at various times in the larger centres of Israel.

Zvi SHORR

62 Jaffa oil, 49 × 61

63 Landscape oil, 50 × 61

64 Village oil, 46 × 61

1898 Born in Russia.

Received the normal education of a young Jewish boy in Russia in those times. As a youngster, did much in decorative painting, modelling and crafts, but without direction.

1921 After miraculously escaping slaughter during the Russian pogroms, immigrated to Israel with a group from the Hechalutz Movement. Settling in Haifa, he became a teacher in elementary and secondary schools. The sculptor Hermann Struck (deceased) was the first to give Shorr systematic training in painting.

1926 Participated for the first time in a group exhibition at the Tower of David in Jerusalem. Since then has been participating in group exhibitions in the country.

1931 Held first one-man show in Tel Aviv, opened by the then Mayor, M. Dizengoff. Since then has held a number of such shows, particularly in Tel Aviv.

1936-8 Paris, studying at the academies. Held two shows. Sold many works.

1939 and 1949 Received the Dizengoff Prize, Tel Aviv.

1939-53 Member of a Kibbutz (Givat Hash-losha), teaching art in the school.

Now lives in Petach Tikvah.

Miron SIMA

65 The Net coloured woodcut, 80 × 60

66 Interior coloured woodcut, 62 × 46

67 Acre coloured woodcut, 38 × 50

1902 Born in Proskurow, Russia. Studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Dresden.

1925 Visited Israel, resulting in a series of lithographs, "Voyage in the Orient". Earlier produced a series of woodcuts, "Reminiscences of Pogroms".

1932 Received the Prize of the City of Dresden, which was the last prize awarded a Jew before Hitler came to power.

1933 Immigrated to Israel.

From 1935 on - Numerous exhibitions in the museums of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa. Twice received the Dizengoff Prize of Tel Aviv.

1937 Published a series of lithographs dedicated to the noted Habima actress, Rovina.

1939-44 Founded and directed the Jerusalem School of Painting and Sculpture (no longer in existence).

1948 Participated in the defence of Jerusalem during the Israel War of Liberation.

One-man shows: in Paris (47), New York (52), Boston (53).

His works are to be found in the major museums of Israel, as well as in Dresden, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Missouri, San Francisco and others.

Sima has invented a new process of executing and printing coloured woodcuts (one-man show at Boston Public Library in 1953).

Johanan SIMON

68 Autumn Evening oil, 48 × 59

69 Rocks in the Negev oil, 46 × 56

70 Kibbutz Swimming Pool oil, 65 × 80

1905 Born Berlin, Germany.

Left medical studies to attend art academies in Berlin, Frankfurt and Paris.

1928 Moved to France, where he worked and studied, coming under the influence of Derain.

1934 Visited New York where he was much impressed by modern murals in public buildings.

1936 Immigrated to Israel where he became a member of a Kibbutz until 1953, specializing in fruit trees. Continued with his painting and did several murals in Kibbutzim, public buildings and factories. (His murals in the Shemen factory administrative building, 1947, were the first real frescoes executed in Israel.) Taught young artists in the Kibbutz Movement. Worked at book lay-out and illustration.

1948 During War of Liberation served in camouflage unit and headed Graphic Section in the cultural services of the Army.

1954-5 Travelled and exhibited extensively in Europe and in South America where he did four large murals for various Jewish institutions.

1955 Returned to Israel. Art teacher.

Has exhibited widely in group and one-man shows, in Israel, Paris, London, Brazil, Argentine, Peru. Participated in Biennale of Venice (1948) and of Sao Paulo (1954).

Twice received the Dizengoff Prize, Tel Aviv (1946 and 1952).

Jacob STEINHARDT

71 Job coloured woodcut, 62 × 55

72 Hagar coloured woodcut, 58 × 76

73 Jeremiah coloured woodcut, 80 × 58

1887 Born in Cherkow, Prussia. At fourteen painted his first oil. After high school in Berlin, studied at the Kunstgewerbemuseum, Berlin. Studied with Lovis Corinth in Berlin (1907) and with Matisse and Steinlen in Paris (1909).

1913 Co-founder of the "Patetiker" art group in Berlin. First exhibit. Two portfolios of etchings published by Neumann, others following.

1914-8 Military service during World War I. 1922-30 Worked in Switzerland, France and Denmark.

1933 Immigrated to Israel.

1950 Head of Graphic Department, Bezalel Art School, Jerusalem and head of the school in 1952.

Throughout the years has had one-man shows in Berlin, London, Paris, New York, Chicago, Washington, Boston, San Francisco, Atlanta, Amsterdam, Athens, Belgrade, Dusseldorf, and South Africa.

1955 First Prize in Graphics at Biennale, Sao Paulo.

Amiram TAMARI

74 Near Jerusalem watercolour, 50 × 70

75 Ein Karem watercolour, 35 × 50

76 Mt. Atzmon watercolour, 37 × 52

1913 Born in Israel (Hedera) and from early childhood evinced interest and talent in painting. Twice receiving prizes in exhibitions of children's paintings.

1928 Was obliged to go out to work while continuing his studies in the evening.

1935-6 Went abroad and studied for two years at art academies in Paris.

1936 Upon returning to Israel, became an active member of the Association of Artists

and Sculptors, since then participating in the group exhibitions of the Association.

Twice received the Dizengoff Prize, Tel Aviv.

1941-6 While doing military service in the Jewish Unit of the British Army during World War II, three times awarded first prize and once second prize in exhibitions arranged for artists in the armed forces.

Today serves on the Central Committee of the Association of Artists and Sculptors.

Shlomo VANDENBERG

77 Jerusalem Abstraction, I oil, 50 x 70

78 Jerusalem Abstraction, II oil, 70 x 50

79 Jerusalem Abstraction, III oil, 50 x 70

1920 Born in Holland.

1936 Immigrated to Israel.

During the '40s worked with the Israel painter, Joseph Sematzky.

Was a member of a Kibbutz until 1949, during which period he participated in general exhibitions of Israel artists in the country.

1953 First one-man show in Jerusalem.

1953-4 Studied in Paris. Held one-man shows in Haifa (1955) and in Tel Aviv (1956).

At present devoting much time to mosaic work and the execution of large works in public buildings.

