



'שפעי'



'נתיב אור'



Bridging the Gap

■ SHIRA YEHUDIT DJALILMAND ■

Orit Martin is a popular* **artist** who lives with her family in Jerusalem. Her artwork shows **traditional** Jewish **themes** using modern technology*.

What exactly do you do?

I bring traditional Jewish **symbols**, such as a *menora*, Shabbat candles, or the letters of *Shema Yisrael*, to art using today's technological **tools**.

What technique* do you use?

First of all, I see the picture in my head. I use lots of different photographs or pictures. I use the computer to put them on top of each other. Filters* give different effects*. Then, I use a computer program to paint on that. It's just like **regular** painting, using different

brushes. But, here, the computer **screen** is the canvas*. Then, I print the painting on a regular canvas, and continue painting with regular paints — mostly acrylic paints in gold and silver. This technique gives the painting a **unique** effect.

What do you want to show in your art?

Jewish art gives visual* **expression** to the contrasts* of life — **Heaven** and earth, body and **soul**. My art builds a **bridge** between the higher and lower worlds. Each painting is a starting point for a person's personal **meditation**. The topics are relevant* to all of us, such as the **purpose** of life and man's purpose in this world.

לגשר על הפער

I believe there is a direct **connection** between man and Hashem. We can build that connection with Torah, *tefila* and *hitbodedut*. My paintings try to show that connection. For example, in the *Magen David* painting, the lower part shows letters that man speaks in *tefila* that goes up. The top part shows the spiritual light that comes down, and together, they make the *Magen David*.

How do you hope people will react to your art?

My paintings show the soul's **search** for Hashem's light. I try to create art that wakes up a person's soul, so that every person, religious or not, can connect to their messages.



Design, and also in a college for art teachers. For many years I illustrated books. I also published lots of books, for example “*Kal Letzayer*” which was a bestseller. Many people may remember children’s books that I illustrated: *Hasefer Hamatok Hazeh*, and others. In the last few years I’ve been involved only in my artwork.

To where and what kind of people is your artwork sold?

My art is not only for religious people. It is for anyone who loves beauty, color, and emotion. That’s why I have exhibitions in different places, so that everyone can see it.

Where do you get your ideas from?

I get my ideas from the Torah, *Chassidut*, *pesukim*, and ancient Jewish symbols.

What are your plans for the future?

I’m about to hold a very big, special exhibition in Jerusalem during *Chanuka*. Everyone is invited to come and take a look at my paintings. For more information about exhibitions, please call 052-767-6321.

For example, the painting “*Path of Light*” (*Nativ Or*) expresses being pulled into a whirlpool, in the chaos* of modern* life. It shows that we are not alone in the chaos. There is a path of light from Heaven which lights the path and is much stronger than the whirlpool. The painting called “*Shefa*” shows that when we feel weak, without energy*, we can receive so much help from above. All we need to do is to open ourselves up to receive that help.

What are your background, training, and qualifications?

For as long as I can remember, I have always been involved in art. I learned in the Betzalel Academy* of Arts and

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| artist אַרטיסט | אומנית |
| traditional טרַדישנל | מסורתיים |
| themes ת'ימז | נושאים |
| symbols סימבּלז | סמלים |
| tools טולז | כלים |
| regular רגיוּלר | רגיל |
| screen סקרין | מסך |
| unique יוניק | ייחודית |
| expression אַקספּרשן | ביטוי |
| heaven הֶבֶן | שמים |
| soul סואול | נשמה |
| bridge בריג' | גשר |
| meditation מְדִיטַיִשן | התבוננות פנימית |
| purpose פּרפּס | התכלית |
| connection קונקשן | קשר |
| react ריאקט | יגיבו |
| search סרְע' | חיפוש |
| path פַת' | נתיב |
| whirlpool וו'רלפּול | מערבולת |
| alone אלוּאון | לבד |
| illustrated אִלְסטרִיטד | איירת |
| emotion אִימוּאושן | רגש |
| exhibitions אַקסיבִישנז | תערוכות |