

ART

as a symbol has the power to convey both personal and universal meaning.

It can transcend barriers of geography, language, status, gender and belief. As a reflection of human experience, it filters through emotion and logic to evoke passion and reason. The artist becomes the conduit when it strikes a chord with its viewer.

For Rina Gottesman, Bianka Guna and Rachel Ovadia, three internationally accomplished York Region artists of Jewish descent, symbolism is inextricably woven into the very fabric of their work. Abstraction is formulated into unique visual vocabularies by these artists where simplicity of line, suggestion of form and blocking of colour collaborate. Symbolic lexicons emerge on canvas, where abstraction meets reality to become fluid vehicles for expressing cultural traditions, ideologies and personal experiences. Mysterious and enigmatic, these symbolic dialects often reveal some personal element Jewish heritage plays in the lives of each artist.

on the
slate
art. culture. heritage.

For more information on this exhibition and other arts initiatives, contact: Sharon Gaum-Kuchar, Arts Coordinator, sharon.kuchar@vaughan.ca

Front images (left to right), courtesy of the artists: Rachel OVADIA, Rina GOTTESMAN and Bianka GUNA.



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the symbolic language of
abstract expression
reflections on Jewish heritage
July 18 - September 7, 2012



Rachel OVADIA

Rachel Ovadia takes her exploration of symbolism in art to a higher level. Her affinity for Kabbalah and Buddhist philosophies inspire her esoteric compositions. Kabbalah and Numerology references drawn from ancient Judaic origin populate her mysterious visual vocabulary. Enigmatic symbols become cryptic messages delivered by strong brush strokes and bold, minimalist lines. Believing creativity is a mystical process, she adheres to the concept, that through formulas, we each carry secretly encrypted codes from birth. "Our challenge is to understand who we are as people and what our function is in this universe. For me, Kabbalah helps to identify with those ever challenging questions."

Lithuanian born, Rachel lived in Israel, Europe and the United States before settling in the GTA, and admits, that her work is a reflection of the "rich nomadic life" she leads. For Rachel, creating art allows her to "connect with the universe" and express in her own visual language, "the symphony that comes from within".



Rina GOTTESMAN

Rina Gottesman achieves bold, expressive mixed media compositions through a strategic balance of colour, line and texture. Strong bursts of intense pigmentation intermingle with subtle washes of neutral space to form intricate patterns and sophisticated configurations. Enigmatic shapes assume meanings that can convey passion or reflection.

Sharing elements of her journey of self-discovery, Rina's Jewish roots figure prominently. "To know where you are going, you need to know where you have come from." Born in Israel as a child of Holocaust survivors and living in Brazil before eventually settling in Canada, Rina's life experiences, spirituality and Jewish heritage merge to influence her artistic perspective. "My life is a continuum of change, constantly being shaped by the people and places I encounter. As an artist who paints from the heart, those experiences that enrich my life also influence my art."



Bianka GUNA

Bianka Guna has developed a vibrant polychromatic palette that celebrates an instinctive expression of colour, movement and composition. Strong primary and pale tertiary colours are juxtaposed within her vivid abstractions. Bold fields of energy appear both spontaneous and planned. Patterns become symbols of expression, sentiment, mood and philosophical approach. "I believe in unity, diversity, proportions, contrast, balance and the unexpected."

A child of Holocaust survivors, escaping the Romanian Gulag and emigrating with her family to Israel in the 80's, Bianka's Kaleidoscopic Days Series was inspired by the soulful voice and lyrical style of Israeli born international concert and recording musician, Noa [Nini Achinoam]. "Israeli music is always travelling with me no matter where I live. My Jewish heritage is embedded into my visual and sound sensibilities, blending together. Like me, [Noa] lived in many continents, carrying her Jewish heritage on her sleeve."



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Rina GOTTESSMAN



Setting Suns and Desert Moons



Did You Know? 5

Bianka GUNA



Kaleidoscopic Days 102

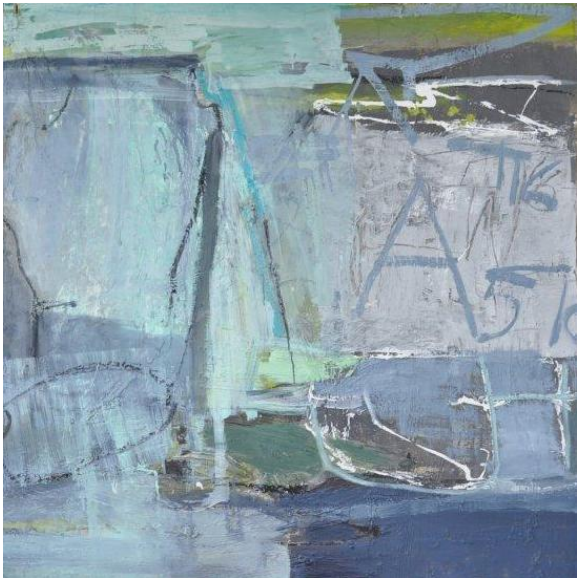


Kaleidoscopic Days 100

Rachel OVADIA



Creation I



Blessings

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