

PORTRAITSRIPTUM

2000

Belle Shafir

PORTRAITSRIPTUM

My most recent work, *Portraitscriptum*, is a series incorporating three elements:

- ◆ written verbal language
- ◆ sign language
- ◆ body language, in the form of hand gestures

The nature and meaning of language has been the subject of extensive thought and research in numerous societies for hundreds of years. For me, the identifiable and appreciable value of words in a language is strongly linked to creations based on prehistoric images, such as the visuality of cave drawings and the ornamentality of hieroglyphics, the foundations of universal art.

On my visit to India, I was deeply affected by the mellifluous intonations of the spoken language and its illustration in body language, particularly through hand movements. As I worked on preparatory sketches of hands, they became for me a symbol of complex meaning parallel to the three aspects of this series - written language illuminated, highlighted, and delimited by an infinite variety of images and signs in the written forms.

The positions of the many pairs of hands represent gestures in an expressive dialogue of relationships, a personal portrait of mankind. The different states of personification reflect an understanding of time and life through images depicted with the utmost realism.

The works are arranged in four groups:

- ◆ Prints of calligraphic images in hands
- ◆ A painting of indistinct veiled figures along with ornamental lettering
- ◆ Sculpted hands nestled in cushions and framed by inscriptions
- ◆ Free-standing hand sculptures marked with a symbolic letter code



Painting on printed paper
30 x 20 cm



Painting on printed paper
30 x 20 cm



Painting on printed paper
15 x 21 cm



Painting on silk screen
100 x 70 cm



Painting on silk screen
100 x 70 cm



Painting on silk screen
100 x 70 cm



Painting on silk screen
100 x 70 cm



Mixed media
natural size

Belle Shafir

- 1953 -Born in Germany.
1972 -Emigrated to Israel.
1984-88 -Studied at the Avni Institute of Art, Tel-Aviv.

One Person exhibitions:

- 1998 - "*Lapillus*", Many H. Gallery, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
1997 - "*Circle of consciousness*", The Constant Sculpture Gallery, Ramat-Gan, Israel.
1995 -Artists' House, Jerusalem, Israel.
1994 -Stadtmuseum Amberg, Amberg, Germany.
- "*For the tree of the Field is Man's Life*", Petach-Tikva Museum, Israel.
-Galerie Maya Wildewuur, Hochhalen, Holland.
-Hatzerot Ha Ikarim Museum, Kfar Tabor, Israel.
1992 -Sarah Erman Gallery, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
-Arkaden Gallery, Regensburg, Germany.
-Museum Villa Stahmer, Georgsmarienhütte, Germany.

Group exhibitions:

- 2000 - "*Storytime*", Artist's House Gallery, Jerusalem, Israel.
- "*Storytime*", Center Gallery, Nazareth, Israel.
- "*Zur Wand reden*", Jüdisches Kulturmuseum, Veitshochheim, Germany.
- "*When you enter the Land*", Shfela Museum, Kfar Menachem, Israel.
- "*Weaving a Connection*", Tel-Aviv University Art Gallery, Israel.
- "*Wir borgen uns ein Museum*", Das verborgene Museum, Berlin, Germany.
- "*The Mudane Muse*", Arad Museum, Arad, Israel.
- "*The Mudane Muse*", Janco Dada Museum, Ein-Hod, Israel.
- "*The Mudane Muse*", Municipality Gallery, Rechovot, Israel.
1999 - "*Earth*", Um el Fachem Gallery, Galilee, Israel.
- "*Six Set Up a Table*", Musrara 10 Gallery, Jerusalem, Israel.
- "*Discourse*", Static Gallery, Liverpool, England.
- "*Talking to a Wall*", Bad Kissingen, Germany.
- "*A Harvest of Pomegranates*", The Corine Maman Ashdod Museum, Israel.
1998 - "*The Israeli Woman Portrait, 1948-1998*", Yad-Lebanim Museum, Ra'anana, Israel.
- "*From Madona and Golda to Mother Theresa*", City Hall, Haifa, Israel.
- "*Artists meeting*", The Studio Gallery, Ra'anana, Israel.

- "*KunstFormMensch*", Rathaus Gerlingen, Germany.
- "*Save the peace*", Giv'ataym Theatre, Israel.
- "*The Garden-A Metaphor*", The University Botanical Gardens, Jerusalem, Israel.
- "*50 Anos Israel*", Galeria d'Art Zero, Barcelona, Spain.
- "*Storytime*", Candid Gallery, London, and Static Gallery, Liverpool, England.
- 1997 - "*60 Years of the Blue Square*", Eretz Israel Museum, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
- "*Miniartura*", Centro Arti Visive, Perugia, Italia.
- 1996 - "*Bitter, Sweet, Time, Putrifaction*", Lymbus Gallery, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
- "*Healing The Breach II*", Yadayim Artists' Gallery, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
- "*Local code*", The Tower Gallery, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
- 1995 - The Tower Gallery, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
- 1993 - "*Sculpture in the Little Forest*", Ra'anana, Israel.
- 1992 - Yad-Lebanim Museum, Ra'anana, Israel.
- The Kibbutz Gallery, Tel-Aviv, Israel.
- "*Tables*", Hakikar Gallery, Jaffa, Israel.

- Projects:
- 1999 - "*The place where Art and Ecology meet*", Britanni Forest, Jerusalem, Israel.
- "*Kescher*", International Artists Symposium, Kibbutz Lochamei Hageittaot, Israel.
- Site Specific Sculpture: Akerby Skulpturpark, Sweden.
- International Artist Symposium, KHOJ, India.
- 1998 - "*Altar*", Women Festival, Haifa, Israel.
- 1997 - "*Zimun*", International Artists Symposium, Artist's house, Herzlyya, Israel.
- International Artists Symposium, Wiesbaden, Germany.
- "*Spiegele*", Book, Frauenmuseum Bonn, XII. Kunstmesse Bonn, Germany.
- 1996 - International Sculpture Project, Görlitz, Germany.
- 1994 - Site Specific Sculpture: The Grizedale Forest, Lake District, England.
- Site Specific Sculpture: The Kfar Tavor Gardens, Israel.

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