



1. ART REJECTED

Reb David Baruch Wolk is first and foremost a man of spirit. Totally immersed in the world of fine art as a youth, he now unabashedly states at his latest showing at Jerusalem's Heichal Shlomo gallery, "Contemporary art is vanity and delusion. When I discovered this truth I put down my paintbrush for twenty years."



2. THE PATH OF TRUTH

"Searching for truth led me on a long and difficult journey winding its way through many different places. Finally settling in Ofakim with my young family, we acquired the foundations of true Torah living. After many years immersed in Talmudic studies, our galus returned. We resettled in Beit Shemesh, where I picked up my paintbrush again."

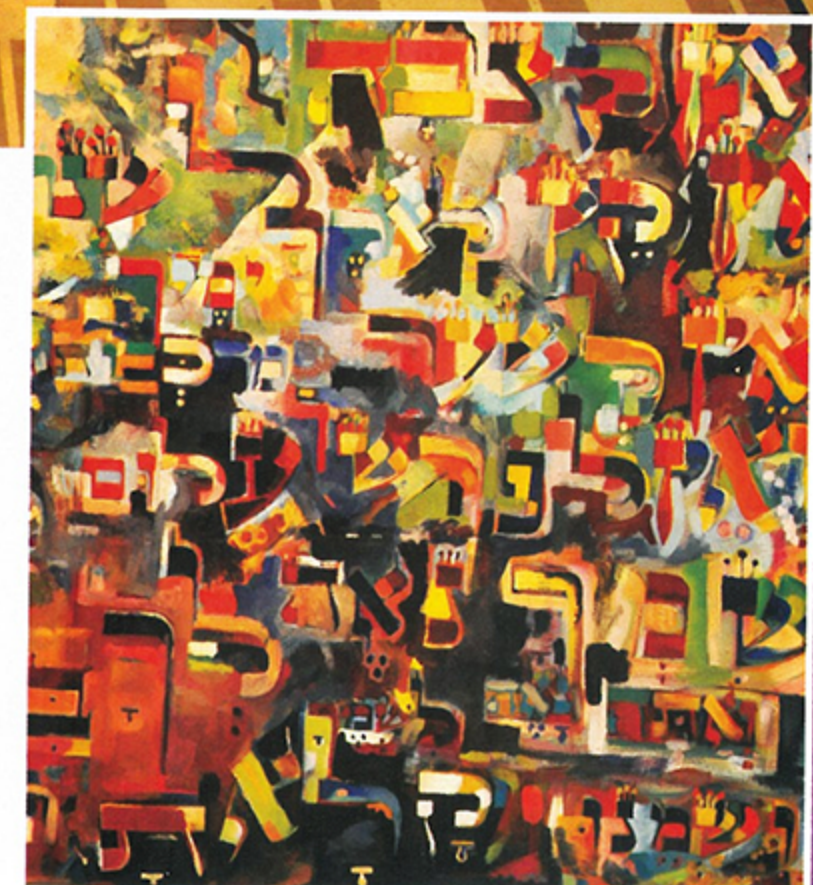
3. ART RESTORED

Curator and art lecturer Nurit Bank was ecstatic when Reb David resumed his artful expression again. She enthusiastically took it on herself to hang his colorful oil paintings at the gallery to make sure their tremendous creative energy would be presented from the best angle.

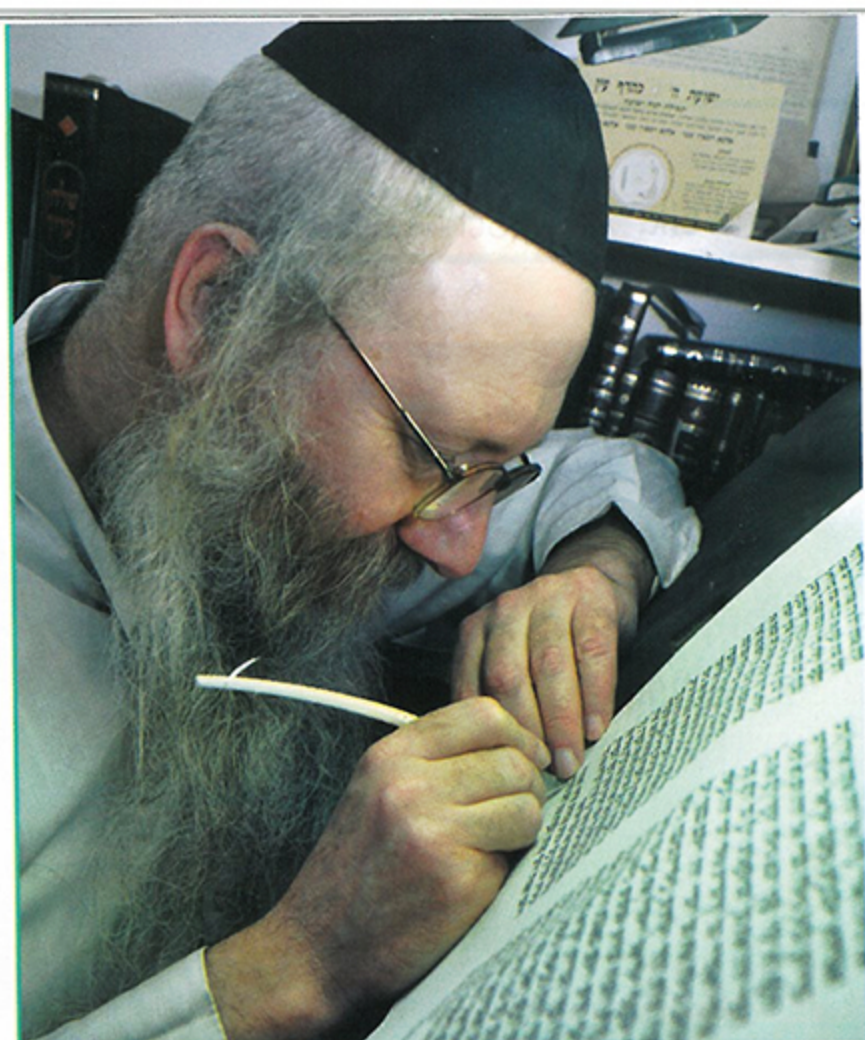


4. REFLECTIONS OF THE SOUL

"My artistic soul recently found expression in Chassidus, which opened up the paths of mysticism," Reb David reflects. "I began to paint the visions of my soul and connect to the souls of the observers." One visitor writes in the exhibition guestbook: "If I could afford it, I would buy every one of your paintings."



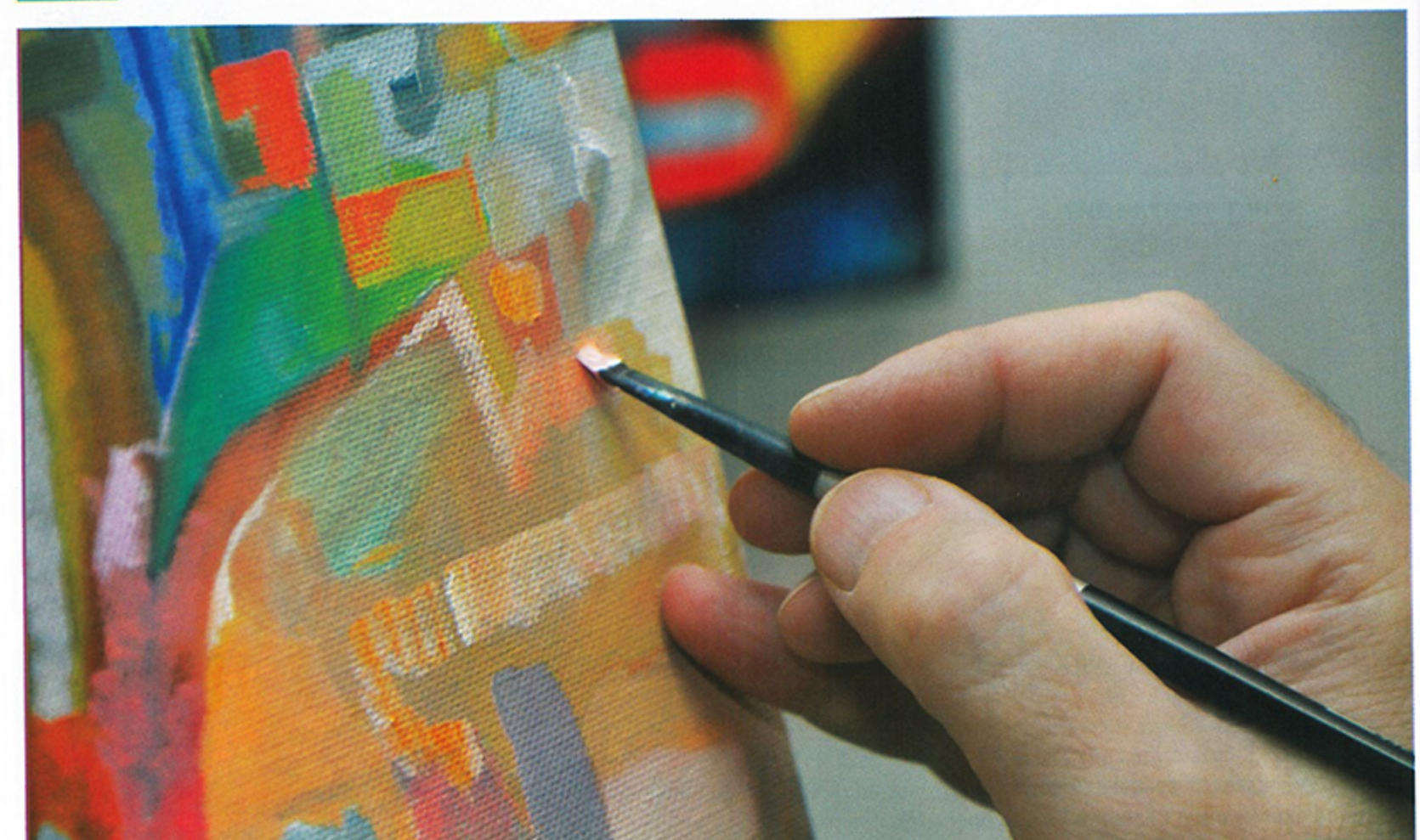
5. TOUCHING HEARTS "By seeking to elevate painting to 'an object of Torah' I am striving to link the lowest with the highest. After all, paint is a medium that takes sediment of the earth, pigments of different colors, and asks them to breathe."



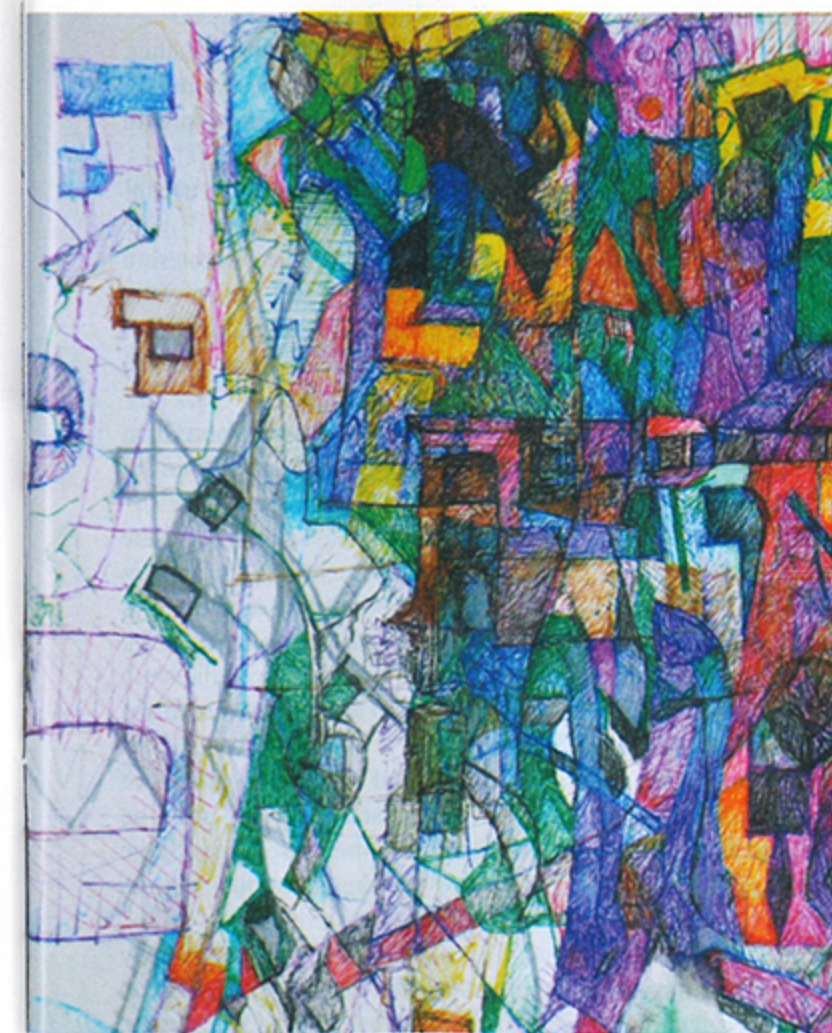
6. SCRIBAL ART Accompanying Reb David to his Beit Shemesh studio, we learn that each one of his paintings is created by the hand of a twenty-first-century modern artist who is also a Jewish scribe. "My artistic skills naturally led me to study *safrus*," Reb David explains as he sits down to work on his personal *Sefer Torah*.



7. COLOR, FORM, AND CONTRAST Putting down the quill and picking up his brush, Reb David moves from his *klaf* to his easel just a few steps away. "The holy words of our Torah, tefillah, and *maamrei Chazal* are the real messages of my art. Color, form, and contrast bring out their beauty."



8. A TOUCH OF HOLINESS "Art is associated with *avodah zarah*," Reb David reflects, "because the visual image is a powerful symbol. It is not surprising that so much money is invested on visual advertising in our modern world. In the past, and unfortunately even today, painting and sculpting brought the evil message of *avodah zarah* to the masses."



9. AVODAS HASHEM "Expressing the abstract beauty of Hashem's world and its eternal Jewish truths is my goal," Reb David concludes. "Rabbeinu Bachya explains how each of us was given unique gifts by the A-Mighty for the sole purpose of serving Hashem. Without Torah, every artistic expression is delusion and lies, but with it, one can now glorify His Holy name."



10. INSPIRATION Inviting us up to his Beit Shemesh apartment, Reb David welcomes us to his balcony. Here he picks up his colored pencils and resumes work on another one of his creations. "I find great comfort and inspiration looking over these hills, which have come alive after two thousand years of *galus*."