



Name: David Baruch Wolk
Profession: Artist
Known for: His unique paintings that express Torah ideas

Torah and Art

■ SHIRA YEHUDIT DJALILMAND ■

תורה ואמנות

David Wolk was born in Michigan, US. He **studied** art and won many prizes. Then he saw that Torah was more important than art. In 1986, he moved to *Eretz Yisrael*. He learned Torah, **raised** a family and became a *sofer Stam*. Twenty years later, he began to **paint** again. His paintings are in the **abstract** style. He uses strong colors to **illustrate** *pesukim* from the Torah and other *sefarim*.

Tell us about your work.

Art **alone** is totally **empty** — a body without a **soul**. When I started **learning**

Torah, I stopped painting. I didn't paint for 20 years. I started painting again to **express** the Torah that I learned. Torah is my focus and my art expresses this. I hope that through my art, others people will be drawn closer to Torah and *ruchaniyut*.

Where do you get your inspiration from?

My **inspiration** in life comes from the *tzaddikim* and *talmidei chachamim*. I was deeply influenced by the *baalei mussar*, the Chafetz Chaim, the Chazon Ish, the

Ramchal, and Rebbe Nachman of Breslov. In my work, my inspiration comes from the Torah that I'm learning. For example, I was working on my *emunah*. The *pasuk* "B'tach baShem v'oseh tov" came into my head. I felt that I needed to paint a picture with this *pasuk* as part of my *avodat Hashem*.

The style and colors you use are very interesting.

I've studied a lot of art. I like modern art and the art of the expressionists. The colors are stronger than your eye sees. This is also a Torah idea: to take a small point and make it bigger. I've learned



to express my Torah ideas with strong colors. This brings out their true **power**.

What is unique about your paintings?

I think my paintings are a *chidush*. My paintings are my Torah ideas expressed **visually**.

What challenges do you have in your work?

When I paint, I have to **challenge** myself. I have to think in ways that can be **uncomfortable**. Art is about the **emotions** in your heart. The heart is full of different emotions. You have to ask yourself uncomfortable questions. If you stay comfortable, you can't **grow**.

What's next for you in your work?

I would love to make and **exhibit** large paintings. We see that art can influence



people very strongly. I want to use my art to “**scream**” to the world “*en k'Elokeinu*” in a way that people will really hear it. In the meantime, I'm happy to have my small paintings enter people's homes and hearts.

What would you tell new artists?

If you have a talent for art, painting helps you learn about yourself. Studying art is important because it helps you learn “how to see.” The main **value** of art is to **create** your own language. It isn't easy, but you can grow a lot from it.

studied	סטָדִיד	למד
raised	רִיזָד	גידל
paint	פִּינט	לצייר
abstract	אַבסטרַקט	מופשט
illustrate	אַילסטרִייט	לאייר
alone	אַלואון	לבד
empty	אַמפֿטי	ריקה
soul	סואול	נשמה
learning	לֶרְנִינג	ללמוד
express	אַקספּרס	לבטא
inspiration	אַינספּרִיישן	השראה
power	פּאָוַר	כוח
visually	וויז'ואַלי	באופן חזותי
challenge	צ'אַלנג'	לאתגר
uncomfortable	אַנקמפּטָרָבל	לא נוח
emotions	אַמואַוּשָׁנז	רגשות
grow	גראו	לגדול
exhibit	אַגזִיבִיט	להציג
scream	סקרים	לצעוק
value	וָלוּי	ערך
create	קריאַייט	ליצור