

international spotlight



Ita
Ziv



OF PARDES-HANA, ISRAEL

***IQA Journal:* Tell us a bit about your personal background.**

Ita Ziv: During World War II, my parents fled from Poland to Russia, where I was born in 1945. After returning to Poland in 1949, my parents discovered that all of the family had perished in the Holocaust, so they decided to immigrate to Israel.

I grew up in Bat-Yam and at the age of 18, I served in the army as every youngster does in Israel. I met my future husband, Eli, while serving. After the army, I joined my husband at the Kibbutz where my three children were born. After 33 years, we left the Kibbutz and went to live in Pardes-Hana, where we live today.

***IQA Journal:* How did you first get exposed to quilting, and what interested you about it?**

Ziv: From childhood, my mother taught me how to manage the sewing machine. I have always loved sewing. For many years, I did embroidery as a hobby and prepared outfits for the holidays and the plays in the Kibbutz.

On one occasion, I went to see an exhibition of quilted outfits. That day has changed my view of sewing and embroidery, and from that moment on, I knew that quilting is what I wanted to do.

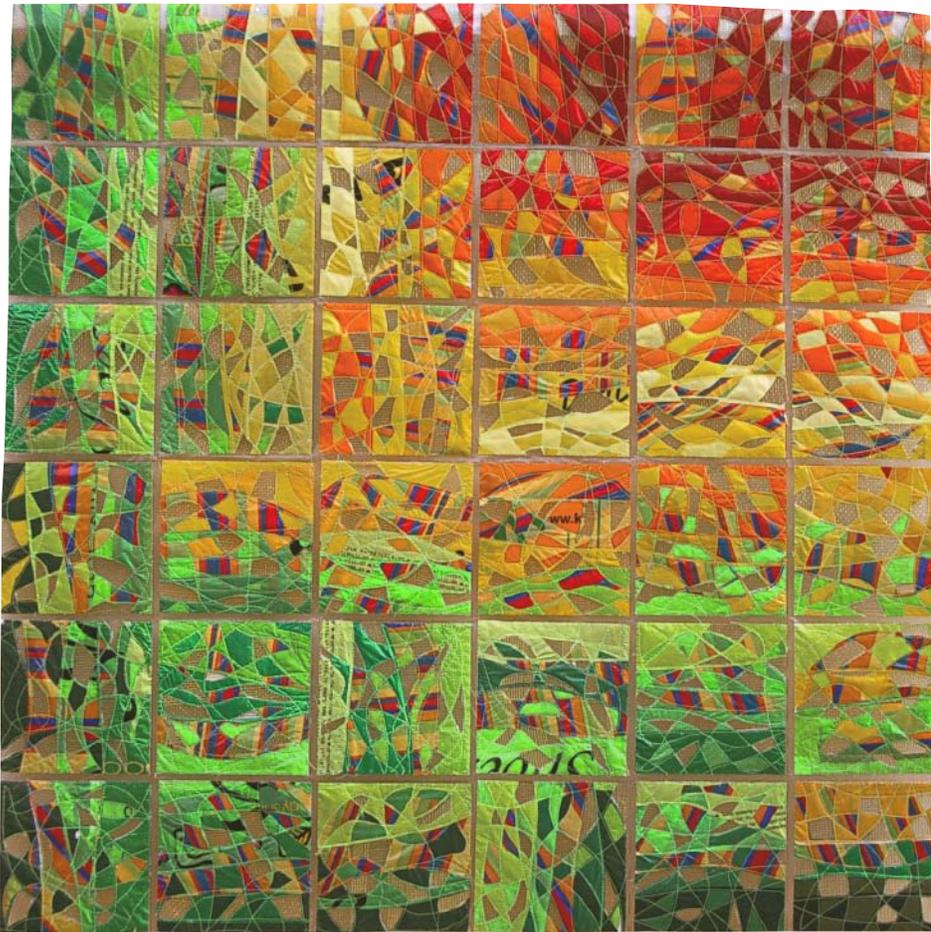
Of course, I could not start quilting without knowing the basics! I spent a few years of experimentation trying to define my special style. Today, I work with transparent materials which I prepare myself like dyeing, painting, printing, stamping, fusing and using other materials like nylon bags, Tyvex, and all kind of papers.

***IQA Journal:* How does your knowledge of clothing design help you as a quilter?**

Ziv: First, in using the machine techniques professionally. And secondly, when I make a quilt, it has to be perfect like a garment. I must have the right colors, the right design, and the right composition of materials.



FLOW



AFTER THE RAIN

***IQA Journal:* What are your favorite styles or techniques of quilting and why?**

Ziv: For me, making a quilt is a celebration. It begins by the dying in unusual techniques the various types of fabrics, and as my favorite style is the art quilt, I like to cut and slice the fabrics to pieces and sew them together in a new and unusual ways. I use Wonder Under, fusing, and folding. I am always looking for new variations which will be as much mine as my own handwriting.

***IQA Journal:* You say in your artist statement that you like fabric to “change in your hands.” Please explain.**

Ziv: In most of my works, I prepare the fabric I wish to use by using the various

methods as mentioned above. The final composition is achieved after many experiments, additions, and extraction until my final approval. The fabric and the materials undergo a metamorphosis under my hands.

***IQA Journal:* Tell me about the quilting world in Israel. Are there many quilters you know? Where do you get supplies?**

Ziv: In Israel, we have the Israeli Quilt Association with more than 300 members. We know that a lot more women do quilt but are not members. Our association is a very active one, and I am a member of the executive committee.



BLOOMING

Twice a year, we organize quilt-related workshops, exhibitions in Israel and abroad, seminars and meetings. Also, in every region there are active groups that meet once a month and do joint projects. There are five shops that specialize in quilt supplies. We also acquire books and other supplies through the internet.

***IQA Journal:* How does your work reflect the political realities of your home?**

Ziv: Generally, the political situation affects my life and of course, of my work. We cannot ignore the surroundings. The situation is reflected in the choice of the subject in which I wish to make a quilt and also by using certain colors in the project.



KIMONO

IQA Journal: Do you feel an artist should make statements of a political or social nature in their work?

Ziv: I feel artists *could* make political or social statement in their work. There is no doubt that whatever happens in their surroundings will be reflected in their work. As long as you do not hurt the feelings of the observer, I find it a legitimate usage.

For myself, many times I expressed my feelings and thoughts of the political situation in my art. For example, my quilts *Fire I*, *Fire II* and *Explosion*. To my great happiness, I am more connected to optimistic situations in my surroundings—like flowers blooming, sunset on the water, sunrise, rain, etc.

IQA Journal: Does the internet help you keep in touch with the quilting world and other quilters who live outside of Israel?

Ziv: There is no doubt that the internet is a great source of information. It brings to my home whatever is going on in the quilt world like exhibitions, works of other artists, etc., I sit for hours at night near the computer, keeping in contact with the world. Even though I have a little difficulty writing in English, I read it freely, and can reach anywhere I want.



THE FLAME IN MY HEART



FEEL FREE TO FLY

IQA Journal: What kinds of things do you want to accomplish with your art in the next few years?

Ziv: I do not want to stop creating, because quilting has a very important role in my life, after my family that has always supported me in my art.

I hope that my work will be interesting and special. I want to have as many opportunities as there are in order to learn and to apply new ideas. I feel it in my hands, heart, and soul. ♦