

STEFFA REIS: From Israel to London with "A Celebration of Israel Landscape".

Whosoever may be visiting London during November - December this year and is overcome by nostalgia for Israel landscape, is recommended to visit Gallery 10, located at 10 Grosvenor Street, London W1 (off New Bond Street).

From the 25th of November to the 22nd of December, at this venue, there will await you an exhibition of the magical landscapes of Safed, Jerusalem, Kibbutzim, Jaffa and Tel Aviv. There, your yearnings may be fulfilled.

Steffa Reis (b. Berlin 1931: London trained; immigrated to Israel 1957) - an Israel painter, has done it again! Although only a one-woman institution, she combines talent, knowledge and a flair for public relations.

The artist's eventful biography is highlighted by extensive travel in the world: Spain, Egypt, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, France (Cite Internationale des Arts), Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary and she has recently returned from a tour of the U.S. and the Far East. One would assume that due to these wanderings, her work would reflect cold climates, skyscrapers, mysticism and touches of post-modernism, yet she constantly returns to Israel and its landscape, celebrating its shades of green, the voluptuous mountain curves, langorous verandahs overlooking the scenery and ripe fruit placed in a dish. Steffa Reis belongs to the group of experiential painters who strongly respond to and are inspired by their environment.

Having come to Israel in the 50's she has not been influenced by the exotic topics of the middle east, such as camels and sand-dunes as was painted in the 1920's. Her teachers in Israel were Marcel Janco and Yaakov Wechsler. Her European heritage helped create a love for the Land of Israel which in spirit is close to that of Shemi and Glicksberg, but in the past her work has been mostly associated with the abstract painting of that period.

Steffa Reis enjoys communicating with people. Foreign Embassies invite her to their functions. With personal charm, intelligence and a command of several languages, wearing an impressive ring and a slight foreign accent, she radiates something bohemian - Israeli - human warmth. Nevertheless when reaching beyond the surface, one discovers a certain hesitancy regarding her painting. A constructive questioning characteristic of the searching artist.

Steffa Reis, ex wife of Professor Reis of the Rambam Hospital, who is the mother of 3 successful daughters; (Joanna in Theatre, Tamar in History of Art; Naomi in Musicology) divides her time between Safad and Tel Aviv. She has exhibited many times in Israel and uses a variety of techniques. It seems she will not be pausing for long following her exhibition in London. In commemoration of 50 years since her departure from Berlin, she has been invited by the Berlin Municipality to exhibit a comprehensive collection of her works in May/June 1987.

Thus, Israeli landscape is celebrated in other lands; another form of representation abroad.