



**Dr. Alec (Alexander) Mishory**

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e-mail: amishory@yahoo.com  
born Tel-Aviv, Israel

**a. Education:**

- 1997 PhD Degree in Art History, The Art History Dept. of The City University of New York (CUNY)
- 1984 MA. degree in Modern Art History, Faculty of the Arts, Tel-Aviv University
- 1972 studies towards a masters degree in Art History (not completed) Washington University, St. Louis, Mo
- 1972 B.F.A in Art and Art Education, Webster University, St.Louis, Missouri (+ Teaching certificate, State of Missouri)

subject of M.A thesis: "Colour in Pre-Raphaelite Painting: 'Truth to Nature' - Symbolism - Moral Message"

Subject of PhD thesis: "Théodore Géricault's 'Grande suite anglaise' - its sources, iconography and significance"

**Advisors:**

Prof. Diane Kelder, Art History Dept., The Graduate Center of The City University of New York, Prof. Patricia Mainardi, Art History Dept., The Graduate Center of The City University of New York.

**b. Research and further educational endeavors**

- 1999 German language studies, The Goethe Institute, Berlin.
- 1989 Curatorial research conducted at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York

**c. Professional and academic experience**

- 2010 -2011 Schusterman Visiting Israeli professor at the Jewish Studies program, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 2009-2010 Schusterman visiting professor at the Art history dept. and the Jewish studies program, Rice University, Houston Tx
- 2005 Art Advisor to the Office of the President of Israel
- 1981 – present The Open University, Tel-Aviv. Author, producer and lecturer of Art History courses and textbooks.
- 1995-1998 'Bezalel'Academy, Jerusalem. Lecturing on modern art subjects as well as Israeli Art and Symbolism.
- 1990-1995 Art critic for the daily *Haaretz*, curator of art exhibitions, judge for "The Israel America Cultural Foundation" Visual Arts Scholarship fund, member of the Visual Arts Advisory Committee of "Omanut La'am", Israel's Ministry of Education and Culture's Organization of Cultural affairs.
- 1989 Hunter College, New York, Introduction courses in Art History
- 1980 - 1983 State Art Teachers' College, Ramat Hasharon, Israel, lecturing on methods of teaching art, modern Art History and Israeli and Jewish art, broadcasting critiques on art exhibits in the morning news broadcast of "Kol Israel" (The Voice of Israel) radio station.
- 1976-1981 Beer Sheva Teachers' College; lecturing on Methods of teaching art, Israeli and Jewish Art

d. Participation in professional conferences

- 2010 AIS conference University of Toronto, May 2010  
Zionism on the Jewish Street, Urban Geography and Nationalism at the Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Yeshiva University, New York. March 2010
- 2008 Association for Israel Studies Conference, NYU, New York (May 2008)
- 2007 Association for Israel Studies Conference, The Open University of Israel, (June 2007)
- 2005 World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem
- 2003 "Lo straniero", Villa Pisani, Venezia
- 2001 World Congress of Jewish Studies, August 2001, Jerusalem.
- 2000 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Asian Association of Open Universities, "Ideology, Pedagogy and Technology, Distance Education", Manila, Philippines, October 2000
- 1999 The Society for Utopian Studies Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas  
The Sixth International Seminar on Jewish Art: "The Bible: Scripture and Picture", The Van-Lear Institute
- 1998 "The Association of Jewish Art", Jerusalem, The Israel Museum.
- 1997 "The Association of Jewish Art", Jerusalem, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
- 1996 The Fifth International Seminar on Jewish Art: "The Real and Ideal Jerusalem in Jewish, Christian and Islamic Art, Jerusalem, The Van-Lear Institute.

e. Academic and professional awards

- 2001 The Ish-Shalom Prize for 2001 of *Yad Izhak Ben Zvi for the History of Eretz-Israel and its Yishuv* awarded to *Shuru Habitu Ur-oo, (Visual Aspects of Zionist Myths in Israeli Culture)*, "Sifriat Ofakim, Am Oved Publishing", Tel-Aviv (please see attachment).
- 1999 German language and cultural studies stipend from the Goethe Institute, Tel-Aviv, for a two month stay in Berlin including organized meetings with museum curators and art historians. Subject of research: Jewish artists and German culture.
- 1992 British Council scholarship for a two-week research in Britain; meetings with gallery and museum curators throughout Britain. Subject of research: Pre-Raphaelite style and its relation to the beginnings of Israeli art and culture.

French Embassy Cultural Attaché stipend for further research conducted towards PhD degree. Subject of research: Théodore Géricault's lithographs at the Bibliothèque de l'École des Beaux Arts in Paris and the Musée des Beaux Arts, Rouen. Meetings arranged with Musée du Louvre curators and Bibliothèque curator.

Languages

(Hebrew), English, French, adequate Italian, adequate German, reading and writing abilities in Russian.

## List of publications

### a. Books:

- 2008 *Still Life: from Depicted Objects to Real Objects* (2 volumes),  
The Open University Press, Tel-aviv
- 2006 *Joseph Budko and H. N. Bialik's Complete Works Edition of 1923, Modern Hebrew Poetry and Art in Harmony*, Sifriat Ofakim,  
Am-Oved Publishing, Tel-Aviv
- 2000 *Shuru Habitu Ur-oo (Lo and Behold: Visual Aspects of Zionist Myths in Israeli Culture)*, Sifriat Ofakim, Am Oved Publishing,  
Tel-Aviv
- 1999 *Art History: an Introduction*, Tel-Aviv: The Open University Press.
- 1998 *Zipora Brenner, her Life and Work*, Tel-Aviv, (private publishing house).
- 1997 *Théodore Géricault's 'Grande suite anglaise' - its sources, iconography and significance*, PhD dissertation, The City University of New York
- 1986-1994 *Renaissance Art in Italy*, (5 volumes), Tel-Aviv: The Open University Press

### b. Chapters in collective volumes

- 1999 - "Three Decades of the Paintings of Shmuel Bonnef", in *Homeland of the Pomegranate, Eretz-Israel in the Paintings of Shmuel Bonnef and the Poetry of Ya'acov Orland*, The Open Museum, Industrial Park, Tefen
- 1998 "Menorah and Olive Branches" in *The Menorah*, catalogue of an exhibition at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem
- 1997 "Motifs and Artistic Influences in Ceramic Tile Decorations on Tel-Aviv Building Facades", in Batia Carmiel, Edina Meir-Meril and Alec Mishory, *Tiles Adorned City*, Tel-Aviv: Haaretz Museum
- 1995 - "And Behold, an Olive Branch in its Beak," in Batia Doner, *Artists for Peace*, Tel-Aviv: Haaretz Museum
- 1988 "The Rebirth of 'Hebrew' Art - Ideology, Utopia and Primary Experiments" in Nurit Gerz (Ed.), *Perspectives on Culture and Society in Israel*. Tel-Aviv: The Open University Press, 1988

### c. exhibition catalogues texts (published scientific papers)

- 2008 *1948: Hebrew Eretz-Israeli Art Leading to the Future*,  
Museum of Art, Ein Harod, Israel
- 2007 *Visual Israeliness*, The Open University of Israel Gallery
- 2003 "Eli Shamir: Portraits, Landscapes, Portrait-Landscapes", in *Eli Shamir, Paintings 1995 – 2003*, (cat. exh.), The Alon Segev Gallery, Tel-Aviv
- 2001 "Expressive Reflections in Ruth Schloss' Mirror of Existential Reality", in *Ruth Schloss, The Last Years*, (cat. exh.), The Givatayim Theatre, Israel.
- 2000 "A Paean to Mud", in *Ways in Clay, 5 Decades of Ceramic Art in Israel*, (cat. exh.), Ramat Gan: Beit Aharon Cahana Museum, 2000
- 1997 "Le reportage réaliste d'un observateur objectif: la suite anglaise de Théodore Géricault", in Emmanuelle Brugerolles (ed.), *Dessins et Lithographies de Théodore Géricault dans les collections de la Bibliothèque de l'École des Beaux Arts*, Paris, 1997 (reviewed in *The Burlington Magazine*, July 1998, and in *The Print Quarterly*, March 1999).
- 1991 - 1996 Weekly art critiques for the Literary Supplement of *Haaretz*.

- 1995 *Olive Branches, Sacred Stones and a Rampant Lion: The Design Process of Jerusalem's Municipal Emblem*, Catalogue of an Exhibition, Municipal Gallery, Jerusalem.
- 1994 *Ronit Etrog, Princes: Points of View*, Catalogue of an exhibition at the Janco-Dada Museum, Ein-Hod.
- 1993 *Receptacle and Contents: Pots and Images of Pots in Contemporary Israeli Art*, Catalogue of an Exhibition. Jerusalem: The Artists House.
- 1992 *Ceramics from Israel*, Catalogue of an exhibition, Ceramic Artists Association of Israel and the Israel Foreign Ministry (exhibition in Turkey).
- Ceramics - Israel, 1992*, catalogue of an exhibition, Ceramic Artists Association of Israel, the Israel Foreign Ministry (exhibition in Germany).
- Beyond the Gold: Jerusalem*, Catalogue of an Exhibition, City Art Gallery of Rehovot, Rehovot.
- Ofra Zimbalista*, Catalogue of an exhibition at the Tova Osman Gallery, Tel-Aviv.
- 1984 *The Ceramic Sculpture of David Morris*, catalogue of an exhibition, Herzlia, the Herzlia Art Museum.
- 1991 "The History of Israel's National Flag." *Cathedra*.
- 1987 "Menorah and Olive Branches: The design Process of the State of Israel's National Emblem." 46 *Cathedra* (January 1987).
- 1985 "William Holman Hunt: English Painter - 'Lover of Zion'." 38 *Cathedra*.
- g. articles
- 2000 "Théodore Géricault's *A Paralytic (sic) Woman*: An Interpretation", *Gazette des Beaux Arts*, February 2000
- 1998 *The Flag and the Emblem, Israel at Fifty*, Jerusalem, Israel Information Center
- 1991 "Flying Angels on Top of 'Dutch Mountains': Perspective Distortions as a Significant Element in Conveying the Message in Painting", *Studio*, No, 18
- "'Vita Activa' and 'Eternal Glory': the Portrayal of Jewish 'Men of Renown' in the Visual Arts at the Turn of the Century" *Studio*, No, 6
- "'Pre-Apocalyptic' Supermarket": An Exhibition of Recent Israeli Art at the Tel-Aviv Museum." *Studio*
- 1990 "Grey and Gold: Frames at the Museum of Modern Art in New-York." *Studio*, No. 14
- "Broken Vessels: The Purification Motif in Moshe Gershuni's Ceramic Works" *Studio*, No. 17

h. Papers read at conferences

- 2008 "Images of Soldiers of Israel's War of Independence", The Annual Conference of The Association for Israel Studies, NYU, New York
- 2006 Boris Schatz's "The Garden of Love" Institution as a manifestation of the Biblical "Song of Songs", Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference, Colorado Springs, Colorado
- 2005 "A Mythical connection: Ghetto Heroism and War of Independence Valor: The Sculptures of Nathan Rappoport", paper read at The World Congress of Jewish Studies, August 2005, Jerusalem
- 2004 "The Dizengoff Prize", paper read at the Association of Israeli Studies, Jerusalem
- 2001 "The Design Process of Theodor Herzl's Tomb on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem", paper read at The World Congress of Jewish Studies, August 2001, Jerusalem
- 2000 "Teaching Art History Courses through Distant Education Methods", paper read at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Asian Association of Open Universities, "Ideology, Pedagogy and Technology, Distance Education", Manila, Philippines, October 2000
- 1999 "Jerusalem Rebuilt': Boris Schatz's Zionist Utopia and its Relation to William Morris's Socialist Concepts and Enterprises", paper read at The Society for Utopian Studies Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas, November 1999
- "The Garden of Love: Zionist Eroticism in Zeev Raban's Illustrations for 'The Song of Songs'", paper read at The Sixth International Seminar on Jewish Art: "The Bible: Scripture and Picture", The Van-Lear Institute, Jerusalem.
- 1998 "Netivot and Bnai Brak: Israeli-Jewish Graphics", a paper read at The Association of Jewish Art, Jerusalem, The Israel Museum
- 1997 "Zionist Resurrection on the Facade of 'The Municipal School' in Tel-Aviv", a paper read at the Twenty-Ninth Congress of Jewish Art, organised by The Association of Jewish Art, Jerusalem, The Israel Museum
- 1996 *From 'Judaea Capta' to 'Judaea Restituta'*, a paper read at The Association of Jewish Art, Jerusalem, The Israel Museum

**Yad Izhak Ben Zvi**  
**For the History of Eretz-Israel and its Yishuv**

The Jury's reasons for awarding "The Ish-Shalom Prize for 2001"

The Jury recommends to grant "The Mordechai Ish-Shalom Prize" to Alec Mishory, author of *Shuru Habitu u'Ru (Lo and Behold, Zionist Icons and Visual Symbols in Israeli Culture)* for the following reasons:

a. In recent years scholars have been focusing on aspects linked to the history of Zionism and to the history of the State of Israel. They have overlooked a significant, though exciting aspect: the way Zionist ideas were manifested in the visual arts and how their aesthetic values were used by Zionist propaganda. Recent scholarly researches deal with the cultural aspects of Zionism: their expression in literature, prose and poetry, the theater and even in "The Seventh medium" – cinema. Against such abundance, the absence of a research such as the one dealt with by this book was felt very strongly. Viewed from such a point, the book marks a breakthrough: it is an original work that is pioneering in its field.

b. The book describes and analyses a complete world and observes its phenomena. The author exposes several examples such as symbols, banners, posters, new years' cards etc., whose aim is to demonstrate how rich this world is: The author paints our world with a sensitive brush and his attitude towards it is three-fold: emphatic, observing and liking. In addition to that, the author regards the subjects of his research with a slight sense of cynicism. He reveals his complex attitude in the book's final chapter. On one hand he describes how the ceremony ["Paamoney Yovel ("Jubilee Bells"), Israel's 50th Anniversary televised Ceremony] has turned ironic and more than that – grotesque. On the other hand, the chapter's caption is "Maybe the past dream hasn't ended yet" marks his optimistic spirit. Without this combination – a warm love and a cool observation – the writing of this book would have been an impossible task.

c. Alec Mishory is well versed in all fields: in art as well as source materials. He succeeds in building a marvelous mosaic while shedding light on three historical periods: "Jewish Renaissance", the first years that shaped Zionist identity, the period of the Yishuv and the first years of the State of Israel. The author has arranged the material throughout the chapters of the book around a central question that functions as a leitmotif: are we dealing with "Jewish art" or maybe with "Israeli art"? thus he has succeeded in turning the separate issues into one block.

d. The book is fascinating; it is written in a style that is both enjoyable and interesting. The illustrations are a joy to behold. More than that, the book has a rare quality: in its essence, it is addressed to scholars but the general educated public will find interest in it as well. The book sheds light on a field that is part of our soul, our identity and being.

For these reasons the Jury finds Alec Mishory and his book *Shuru Habitu u'ru* worthy of receiving the Mordechai Ish-Shalom prize.

(Signed)

Prof. Avraham Stern – Chairman, Prof. Shmuel Achituv, Ms. Nurit Altuvia,  
Dr. Yosef Drori, Prof. Avner Holzman, Dr. Yehiam Weitz.

April 22 2001, ,