

The Role of Art and Artists in Wartime

**Art can be a source of harsh truth, but also something that
deeply inspires hope**

**Naomi Fuks
Arie Lamdan
Dana Krinsky
Debbie Oshrat**

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The morning of October 7, 2023 changed the world, suddenly making unimportant what had seemed so unimaginably important the night before. As the torrent of terrifying news engulfed us, convictions shattered and priorities shifted radically. Watching the horrors of war, many artists and those involved in the artistic endeavor began to ask themselves a question that was not part of their everyday life: What is the role of art and artists in a time of war?

Art cannot prevent or end wars, but it has the potential to engage people in a way that no other medium can. It is the responsibility of art and artists to express socially relevant moments within the major events of the time, especially during the war.

There is an expectation from artists to lift up the national mood, like the singers who perform for the soldiers in the field. There is an expectation from artists to create a mobilized art, one that commemorates the fierce battles and the fallen, one that will lift up heroes and many of them do this.

From October 7th we see mobilization of Israeli artists, some of them bringing light and color into shelters and painting on walls, some conducting art workshops for evacuees and survivors, some donating art materials to children and adults who need a quiet moment and creativity, and some painting the fallen, the kidnapped and the abducted, for the families.

My short essay, written during the war, attempts to be a modest answer to the dilemma that war reaches each of us while art must be promoted in order to maintain the kind of normality that war seeks to annihilate.

Now the social cohesion helps us to process pain, loss and trauma. The discrimination and misunderstanding that ran so deep during 2023 before

Hamas stunned Israel on Saturday 7th October with the most damaging surprise attack Israel has faced in decades sheds light on perceptions, false pretences and false histories.

Naomi Fuks

Since the beginning of 2023, the Israeli activist artist Naomi Fuks has been expressing her concern about the events in Israel, she writes:

“For some time now, I have been thinking about the chaotic and unimaginable situation in my beloved country and how I will express my displeasure, uncertainty, and deep frustration, from what is happening here right in front of my eyes, which I refuse to believe...

So, a storm of emotions, in which I am with my best friends, led me to write this poem and create this painting...

A painting born from pain, from the uncertainty of what is going to happen, to us and our children in the country, the one we fought so much for, the one in which we lost the best of our sons, who gave their lives for it and for us...

I never thought that we would reach this sad and chaotic situation... but history shows that you can never say, never...

As an artist and a poet, I create out of the same pain and intensity in him, the one that seeps into us, day in and day out, and does not let me rest...

I wish we were hopeful in giving ourselves a chance for a better and saner days will surely come.

And this is what I wrote...and drew...from my heart... I wrote...and drew...from my heart...

Because I have no other country...

All your dangers from the outside come,

And your destroyers are from within.

For your destroyers from among the people rise up,
and she was silent

But look in her eyes,
the fear, the horror,
the terrible uncertainty.
And the beat came mercilessly,
in the colors of blue and white,
Which, engraved so deeply in her heart,
'Because I have no other country,
she murmured again
holding the edge of the cloth
And a blue tear falls to her,
At the edge of the eye...
And this is my creation, which illustrates exactly the beats of the heart.
It's called 'Tear in Blue and White'. (28 April 2023)



Naomi Fuks, 'Tear in Blue and White', April 2023.

“There are no words... just a lump in my throat and salty tears rolling down my cheeks... I shudder and break my heart, it's also broken to pieces”, Naomi Fuks.,
October 2023

The killing fields / Naomi Fuks

And in dreams
Again, he runs in the fields
Breathless.
Their eyes are empty asking for relief.
Their hearts are bleeding without beating...
Run for their lives
All around the horror, God's fear
The sky is painted red.
They don't look back,
Whispering for one last call for help
With a broken voice, with a ruined tear.
Running across the battlefield
Between the short thorns,
Calling Hear Israel,
Against cruel evil
And that's it... It's over... Only silence remains...
And on the fields of slaughter
They spread their wings and ascend to the sky,
Leaving behind
Angel gold dust...
So many angels out there
I paint the sky gold and white.

Dedicated to the victims of the Nova party massacre.
A party of beauty, freedom and love that turned into a cruel and merciless
massacre...

May their memory be blessed forever.
We will not forget and we will not forgive!!!!
The painting "A sky full of angels"
In their memory
Written and drawn with tears and pain...



My painting "Birds Secretly Die"
An ancient Celtic legend tells of a rare and wonderful bird that sings once in a lifetime. From the moment she neglects her nest she runs after a thorn tree, and

when she finds it, she clings to the hardest edge and sings a song rare in its beauty the cost of which is her life.



For my series 'Art through the War'

My Artwork 'Crying soul bird', Naomi Fuks

Naomi Fuks: Today is exactly one month until the terrible Black Saturday massacre...

We are all shocked, heartbroken, bleeding...

Our hearts are torn to pieces and we still cannot realize the terrible disaster that befell us on October 7th.

My beautiful Israel, crying after the murders... on her land...

My beautiful Israel prays for the safe return of the kidnapped to their homes.

Israel my amazing Israel pray for the peace of our brave and heroic soldiers, who risked their lives for the country, in a matter of minutes...

For the life of this wonderful nation, restore from the terrible fracture and be strengthened and blessed forever

I'm speechless / Naomi Fuks

I am already speechless.

All you hear is moaning

Painful, painful sobs.

When they come from inside...

Like a wounded and bleeding animal

She tried and the sound came back.

It turns into a doorbell.

And the heart

That absorbed the fragments of pain

He bleeds into his own bowels.

I'm looking for a way

To tend his broken parts,

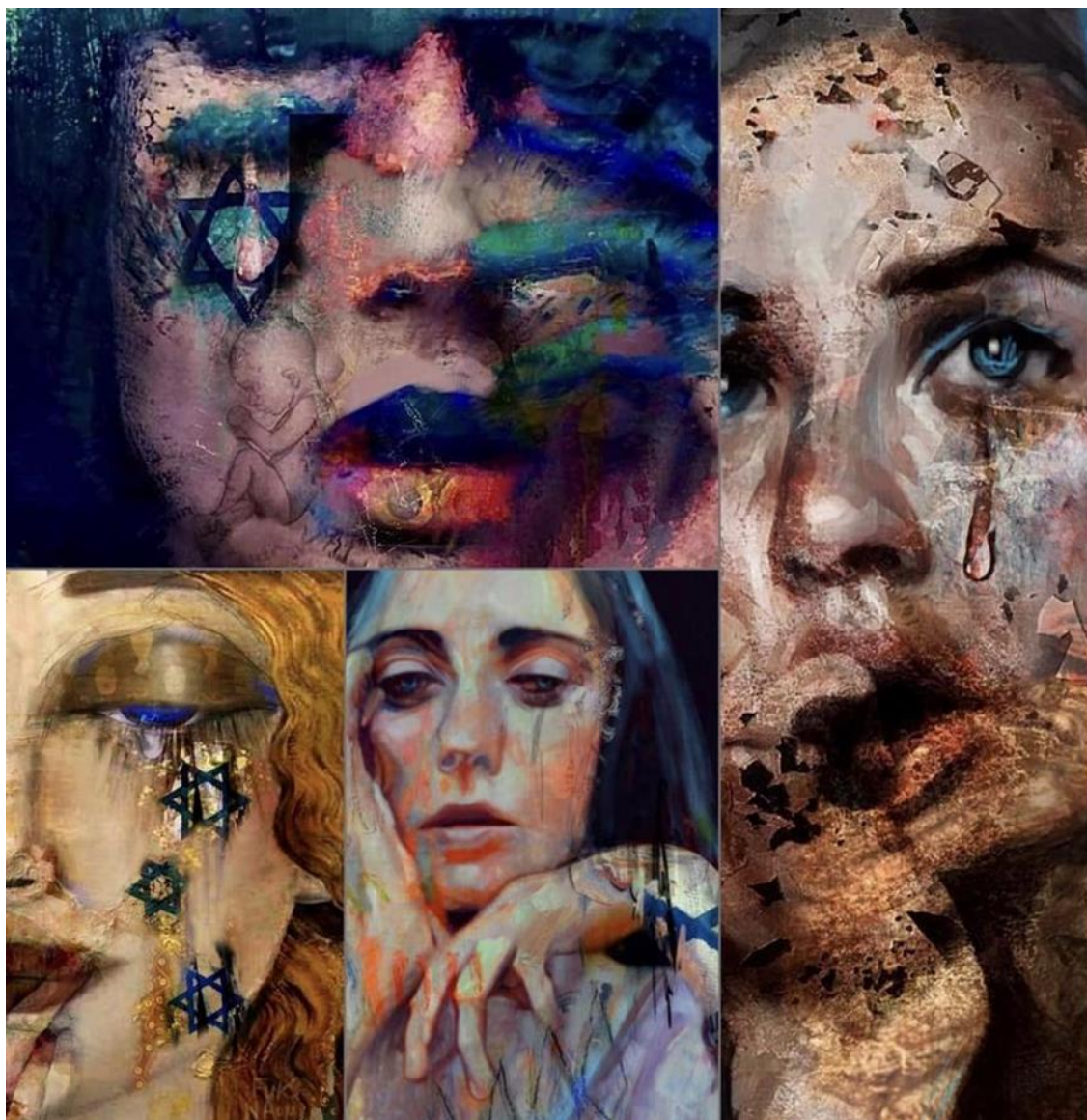
Hello, scattered everywhere.

And ask for a source of comfort.

My artwork "Silent Prayer", Naomi Fuks



Last night I looked through the pictures of the dead and the spaces...
So many faces and names... A face I never knew that looked at me and I'm in
them...
My eyes met theirs for a second.
Trying to infiltrate their world, each of them.
A whole world...
And from this terrible pain I created this painting and song.



Like a tattoo / Naomi Fuks

Again...

You come to me in my dream

Laughing and so beautiful,

Contact me

With shining eyes,

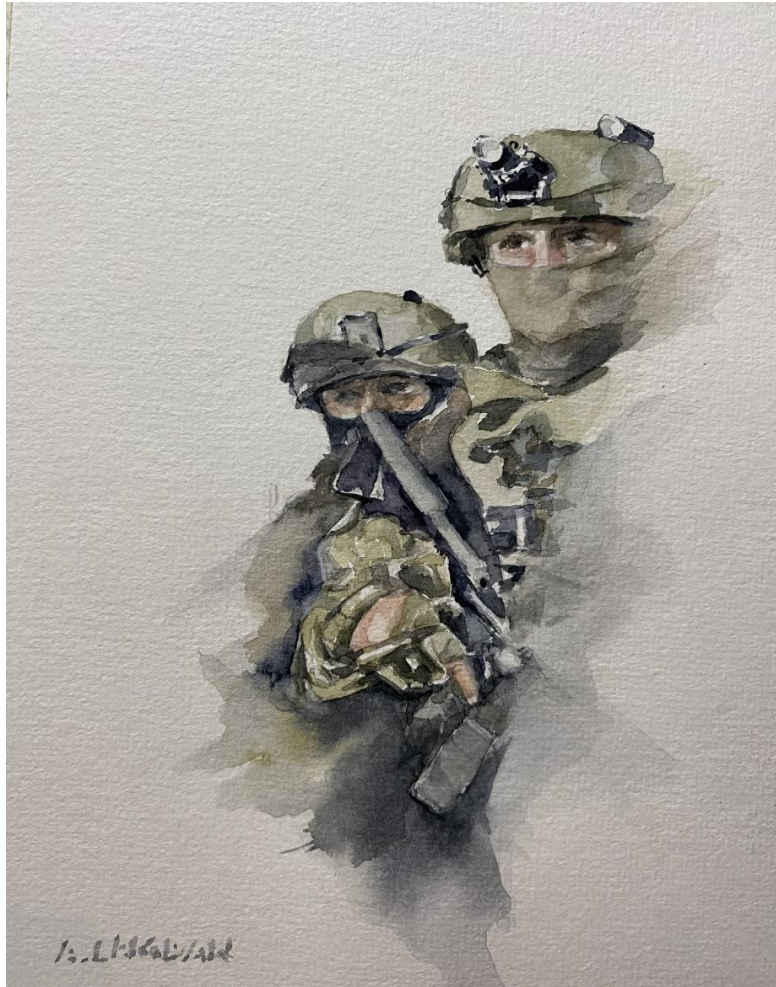
I don't know what will be here

Just a second... In a moment...
And who could describe...
Once again you melt,
In the same memory,
Burnt into me like a tattoo
Faces and names,
That I didn't know before
But now they are in me.
Dissolving in my blood,
Forever.

Arie Lamdan

Arie Lamdan's heroic art, depicting war heroes and civilians.

“They haven't seen their families in a long time, sleep has not come to them for many days and hours, and they are still alert and determined to exterminate the enemy, their eyes shine with a fighting spirit which originates from the defense of the house and the righteousness of the road.... these are my heroes!!!”



Arie Lamdan, "Two that are one", watercolor, 20x30 cm, October 2023

“.... despite fatigue which is actually exhaustion, the soldier sits down on the hot sand and the sound of the galloping tank is deafening behind him...and he opens the small pocket notebook and reads his wife's parting words in it over and over again before leaving for the battle for the house....”

Arie Lamdan, "In the shadow of the speeding tank", watercolor, 20x15 cm, October 2023



Arie Lamdan, "On your ruins I will build", watercolor, 20x30 cm, October 2023

Dana Krinsky

“Like all of us, I walk around with a broken heart in the face of the terrible reality and I want to share my deepest sympathy with the hundreds of families who found themselves part of an unimaginable tragedy.

So many pictures break my heart right now and my way of processing this whirlwind of emotions is to paint. I also have a red-haired son and I was deeply touched by the photo of a mother who wraps her two little red-haired children in a hug and a blanket in the hope of protecting them somehow. I truly hope that they will safely return home soon” (Dana Krinsky)



Dana Krinsky, watercolor on paper, 19 x 19 cm, Israel, October 2023

“In hard times there are people who run away in their sleep.
In hard times there are people who sleep and run away from them.
There are children who, the last time they went to bed peacefully, woke up in a
nightmare. But it wasn't a nightmare. It was a reality.
So how will they go back to sleep
If the nightmare could wake them up again
Some people fall asleep in times of trouble.
Some people can't find sleep in difficult times.
Some children woke up with a nightmare the last time they went to bed
peacefully, but it wasn't a nightmare. It was reality.
So how will they go to sleep
If the nightmare could wake them up again” (Dana Krinsky)



Dana Krinsky, watercolor on paper, 19 x 19 cm, Israel, October 202

“In these days of insanity and pain, our dogs are a source of comfort and reassurance. They may not understand everything, but they sense our anxiety, hear the explosions and sirens, and learn to respond to the sound and run with us to the sheltered room. My two dogs, Tessa and Angie, keep bringing smiles to my face when they cuddle with me at every opportunity, expecting me to continue living as usual and take them for walks and playtime.

In parallel to the disaster that befell us, a tragedy also occurred for the pets in the south of Israel.

Many family dogs were shot and slaughtered in the area, and many of those who survived were injured and lost their families. After all the injured and survivors were evacuated, and even before all the bodies were removed, operations began to locate the traumatized dogs and rescue them from the fire-stricken areas. Some of the dogs were eagerly awaited by family members who were spared from the disaster, and some will never see their families again, as they were all murdered, but great efforts were made to find and rescue every one of them even under fire and unite them with their families or foster homes. The moments of compassion in the midst of darkness help us preserve our faith in humanity. This painting is based on photographs that deeply moved me and were taken a few days ago in Kibbutz Kfar Aza.” (Dana Krinsky)



Dana Krinsky, oil on canvas, 2023

Debbie Oshrat

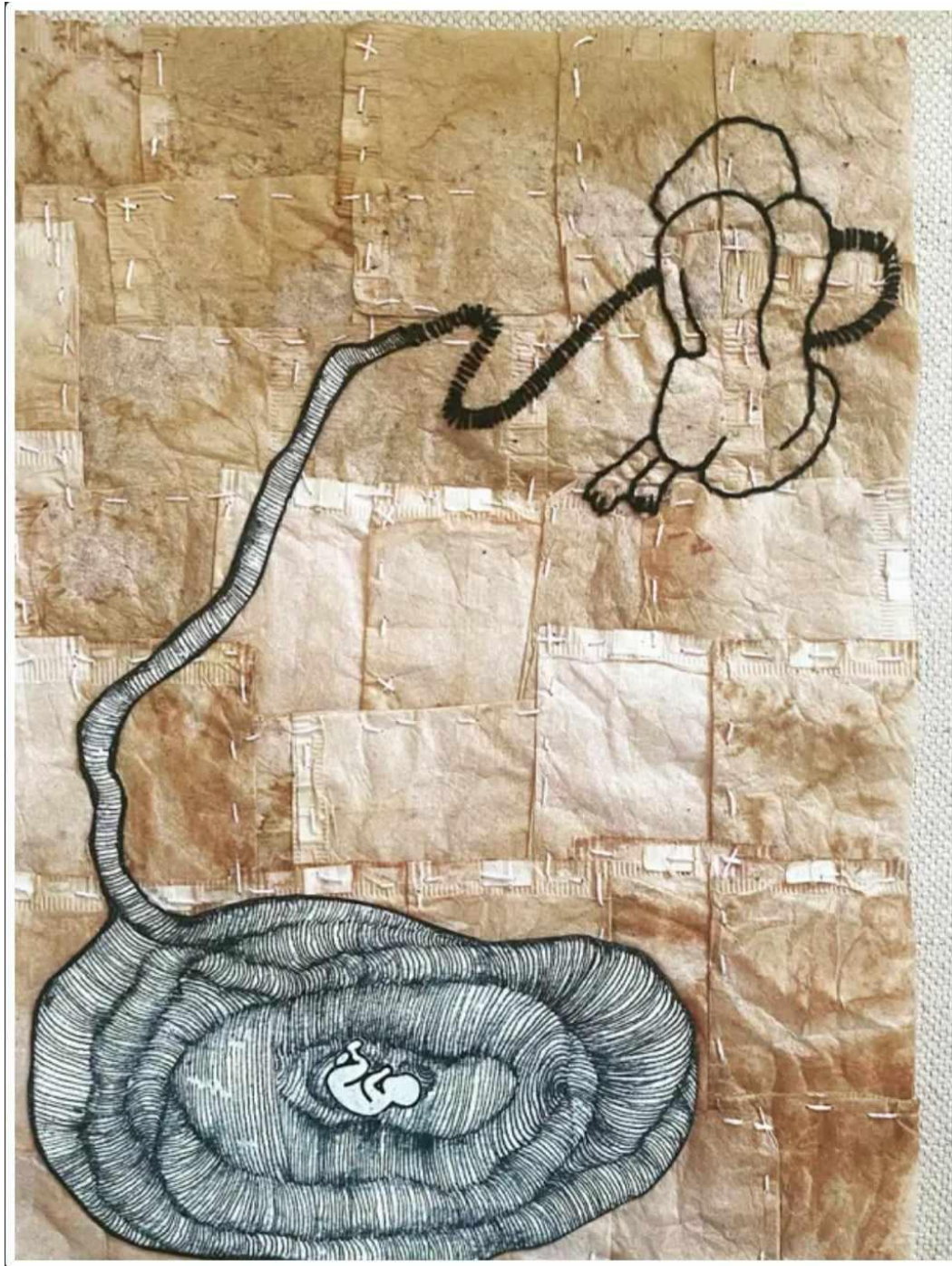
An artist who in recent years has been drawing and creating collages from used tea bags, embroidering, painting and drawing, reviving old material and making it contemporary and vibrant.

The beginning of her work with the tea bags resulted from the number tattooed by her mother, a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp. The sight of the aging arm sent Debbie on a search for a substrate that would have a texture and color as similar as possible to the skin of the aging body, a material that would allow her to touch and loosen the "bond of silence".

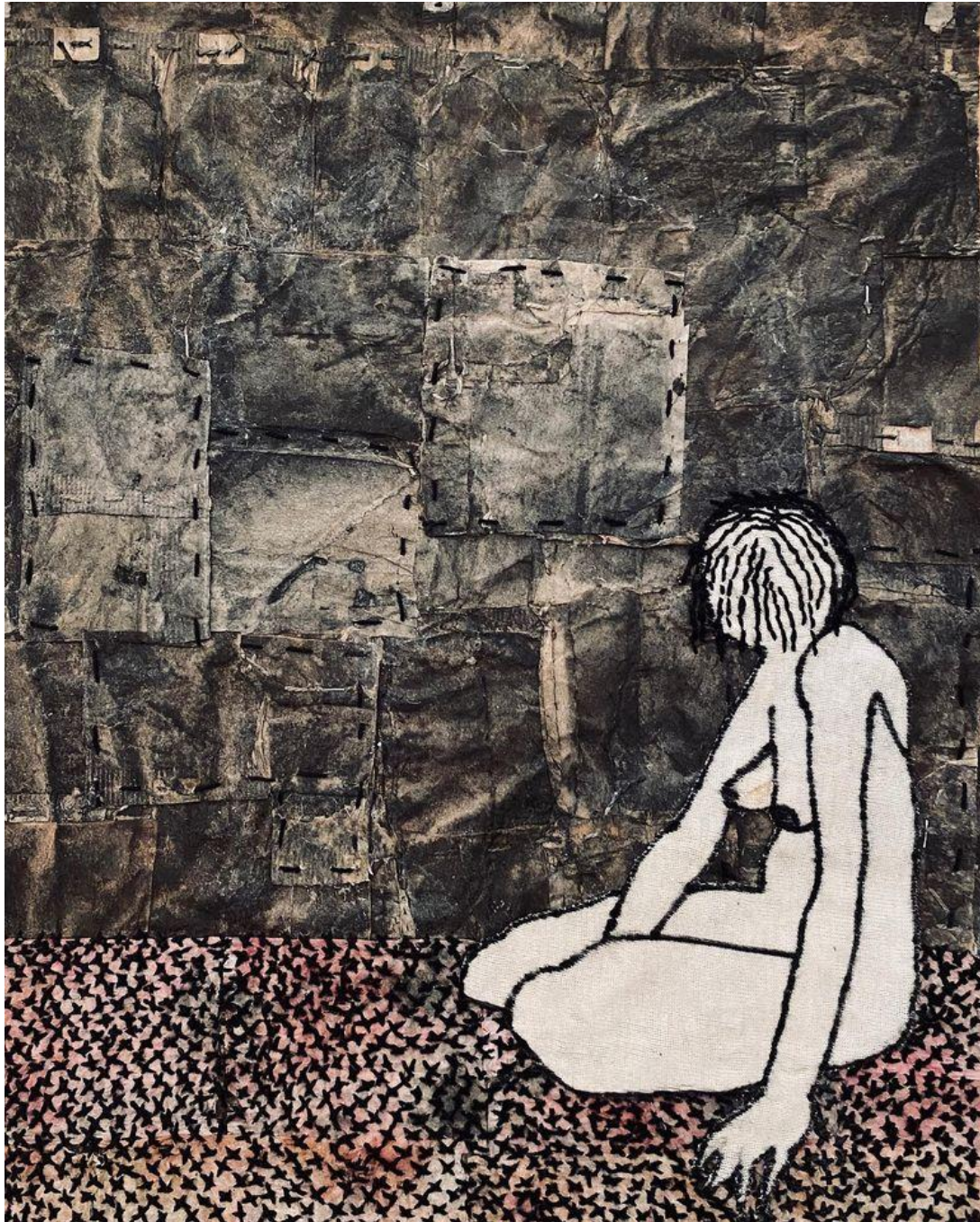
Even in the war today, she continues to create on tea bag weaves.



Debbie Oshrat, "Bond of silence", drawing collage on used tea bags,2023



Debbie Oshrat, "Bond of silence", drawing collage and embroidering on used tea bags, 202



Debbie Oshrat, "Bond of silence", drawing collage on used tea bags,2023

Israeli artists in wartime

It is difficult to make your voice heard during the war, in the current context of information and news that shakes the spiritual state of each of us, but this is also the moment when artists, an indispensable critical voice in shaping and understanding our society must express relevant moments of the major events of the time, especially during the war, to display their true emotions in their works of art.

Naomi Fuks

About herself:

“I was born in Holon, Israel. Since my childhood I always painted and was attracted to all forms of art. Now I have a studio for graphic design, illustrations and paintings. My works are in mixed media technique. Each painting of mine talks by itself. Unique touch of ethnic, primitive abstract, figurative faces and body mixed together. Deep thoughts that come from the depth of my soul.

<https://naomi-fuks.com/product-category/art-from-the-soul-in-days-of-war/>

Arie Lamdan

Arie Lamdan was born in Israel, he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Boston's Massachusetts College of Art in 1966.

Arie studied advanced etching with the Israeli artist Tuvia Beri, and has been teaching drawing, painting and art history in various institutions. Lamdan paints and sculpts in a wide variety of media, he has participated in one-man and group exhibitions in Israel and abroad.

In 1994 he completed a course for tour leaders, and guides many groups of art lovers in museums in Israel and abroad.

<https://www.facebook.com/arie.lamdan/>

Debbie Oshrat

She is an Israeli artist, who in recent years, has been drawing and creating collages from used tea bags, embroidering, painting and drawing, reviving old material and making it contemporary and kicking.

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<https://www.facebook.com/debbie.oshrat.art/>

Dana Krinsky

She is an Israeli artist, born in Tel Aviv and graduated with a bachelor's degree at Tel Aviv University. She began her artistic career at "St. Martin's" School of Art in London, where she majored in art and specialized in sculpture.

Krinsky paints in oil on canvas and wood. Krinsky's works are mostly realistic and deal with every day and family situations, while referring to the classical-modern space

<https://www.facebook.com/dana.krinsky.studio/>

Author: Victoria Sara Dazin.

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