

Jerusalem in the eyes of a Thai and an Israeli artist

Paintings & drawings by

Sumet Jumsai & Yossi Chitrit

Yossi Chitrit - "David's Tower and the City Wall", 1990. Panda on paper, 50 x 70 cm.



IN MOUNT ZION

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Marsi Gallery, Suan Pakkad Palace
30 May - 2 July 2000

Yossi Chitrit



Born in Jerusalem, Chitrit paints the sites, views and characters found in his native city. Here he finds a wealth of colour : the shades are mixed with spectacular hues bathing Jerusalem in magic and raising it above the normal run of cities. It is this colour which inspires Chitrit to paint in a very personal manner. He uses figurative-realistic methods in portraying, for instance, a landscape, a path, houses, roofs, trees, the city wall and hills around the city, as well as the local people and other compositions. He conveys an expressive realism by means of a few light lines or free splashes of colour.

Chitrit used to work at the Foreign Ministry, Israel. He is a member of the Painters and Sculptors Association and studied art at Bezalel in Jerusalem, the Avni Institute in Tel Aviv, and abroad at the Applied Graphics Institute in Mexico and the Academy of the Arts in Montevideo, Uruguay. He has held solo exhibitions in Montevideo, Mexico City, Istanbul, Turkey, and in Marseille, France, as well as in Israel, in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Bat Yam, Petah Tikva, Beersheba and Haifa. He has also participated in over 30 general exhibitions throughout Israel and abroad.



"Olive Trees", 1996.
Panda on paper 70 x 100 cm.

Sumet Jumsai

Bangkok born Thai architect-painter Sumet Jumsai is a faculty member of the Department of Architecture at Cambridge University where he was a student and later briefly taught. His architectural works have appeared in numerous international publications and exhibitions including the Venice Biennale 1996. He is a recipient of the Crystal Award for art and culture at the World Economic Forum, Davos 1999. He is also a social worker, conservationist and author. His best known book, called "NAGA" (Oxford University Press 1988), deals with the origin of civilization in the Asia Pacific region.

In painting, he is discreetly active, having had only a few exposures in Bangkok and one exhibition abroad, at the Galerie Atelier Visconti in Paris, which ran from December 1999 till February 2000. His paintings verge on the abstract-figurative, and are colourful, powerful and totemic.

The works in this exhibition are based on sketches he made of Jerusalem, the Galilee and elsewhere during a visit to Israel in 1994. He says that the most memorable part of the trip, besides the Capital of the People of the Book, was possibly Saint Peter's fish from the Galilee.



"Mount Zion", 1999.
Oil on canvas 90 x 70 cm.



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Sumet Jumsai - "Traffic jam on Mount Zion", 1999. Acrylic on canvas 90 x 140 cm.

Exhibition jointly sponsored by the Embassy of Israel, Bangkok, and Chumbhot-Pantip Foundation, Suan Pakkad Palace, Bangkok.