

An Inward Gaze Outward

Sewing hands, brushstrokes, camera clicks, and handmade prints – these are the diverse techniques employed by the creators in this exhibition, members of the Faculty of Medicine. Nine artists have imprinted dreams woven in their private rooms onto paper and canvas, creating a world for themselves which now is revealed to us.

With one click of the camera button, **Aviv Halfon** chooses to create compositions that, through computer processing, forge a new realm; a realm in which the artist seeks to glimpse the child within, his family, and their embrace and understanding that he so needs. **Avri Rubinstein's** brushstrokes are soft and thick, highlighting the human texture created by his figures. **Azaria Rein** paints in a classic style the heart's silhouette emerging through the light he casts on the surface of the portrait, which looks back at us, the viewers. **Michael Steinitz's** crayon and pastel hues invite us to lyrical and abstract landscapes of the land, where everyone can choose where they want to be. The wonderful, hidden world teeming under the surface of the water is revealed to our eyes through the camera lens and the eye of **Nir Friedman**. **Daniel Zilberscheid's** scientific and chemical realm allows him to shed new light on manual printing techniques. A colourful world is transformed into countless shades of black and white. In **Assel Saadi's** still life paintings, the walls of her childhood home are rendered in oils – those very walls that became the canvas for her early artistic expressions. The flame in the painting embodies her internal driving passion. The entrancing gaze **Eleanora Medvedev** seeks in the eyes of the women she photographs is enveloped in soft fabrics and gentle light. **Revital Arbel's** hand embroiders a woman, heals a woman, heals herself – giving agency to the aching, wounded body. Her journey between India and Israel is rendered as a colorful embroidered medical stamp.

The lives above and below the surface coalesce into the artists' personal expressions, an inward gaze outward and displayed in the exhibition.

Michal Mor, Curator, The Hebrew University

In this selection of artworks by members of the Faculty of Medicine, personal and poetic channels of expression, complementing the creators' professional routines in the fields of science and medicine, are presented for the first time. The tapestry of voices and artistic pieces inhabits the shared human and cultural space of the faculty community, attesting to its resilience and multifaceted nature.

The realms of healing and creativity have always been closely and fruitfully intertwined – two worlds in dialogue with each other. The exhibition of photographs of the diverse artworks, situated at the intersection of paths leading to the medical faculty buildings, seeks to manifest these connections and encounters between physical healing, mental healing, healers, patients and the various roles within the medical professions.

Our thanks to the creators participating in the exhibition:
Revital Arbel > Nir Friedman > Aviv Halfon > Eleonora Medvedev > Azaria Rein > Avery Rubinstein > Assel Saadi Michael Steinitz > Daniel Zilbersheid

My heartfelt gratitude goes to everyone who helped in the realization of the project.

Anat Reches, initiator and producer of the exhibition, Faculty of Medicine



Avri Rubinstein, *Maya plays frisbee*, 2022, oil on canvas

Diverse Voices

Creative Expressions from the Faculty of Medicine

Revital Arbel M.D., surgeon and director of the Urogynecology Unit in Shaarei Zedek Medical Center, member of the Ministry of Health's Committee for Gender Affirmation Surgery and artist

"Through my work, I try to help women from diverse backgrounds regain control over their bodies. As an artist, I photograph and embroider to process and express my feelings and thoughts on the relationship between my profession and the world around me. In the creative process, I attempt to offer repair for the injustices I encounter in my work as a physician and as a woman. For me, medicine and art are not a combination of two separate domains, but rather one and the same. I am a doctor all the time and an artist all the time, simultaneously.

My art is the sum of all the components that make up my life: family, love, relationships, work, religion, society, culture, politics, pain, acceptance, and compassion."

Nir Friedman a research professor with a joint appointment in the Faculty of Medicine and the School of Engineering and Computer Science, and an underwater photographer-artist.

"From a young age, I was interested in photography. When I was 38, I learned to scuba dive and fell in love with the underwater experience. As my diving skills improved, I began incorporating photography. Initially, I mainly documented marine life and coral reefs to share with my family. Over time, I became more proficient in underwater photography, striving to capture the beauty and complexity of the teeming life below the surface. I am captivated by the otherworldly beauty and richness of forms and colors in the underwater landscape. Photography provides a rare opportunity to observe wildlife up close, sometimes just centimeters away, witnessing their natural behaviors."

Aviv Halfon medical student and researcher integrating alternative and Western medicine, creates in the realms of art and writing.

"I create out of a passion for creativity and healing. My works stem from my personal journey towards healing and forgiveness, inviting the viewer to re-experience the inner child within, to join a voyage of exploration and contemplation.

Amidst the chaos of our lives, it is easy to neglect the child amongst us – an innocent and curious facet, craving embrace, understanding and forgiveness. My art evolves from the aspiration to transform the human into a living canvas, to invite them on an outward journey that awakens inner processes. My artworks aim to send the viewer back

in time, to confront their pains, understand them and forgive, thereby allowing simplicity and inner freedom through integrating the spirit of their inner child with the concept of 'home'."

Eleanora Medvedev Ph.D., in charge of the FACS sorters unit in the Research Infrastructure Unit at the Faculty of Medicine, and a photographer-artist.

"The female figure has been a captivating, mysterious and intriguing subject throughout the history of art. Like many great artists before me, I draw inspiration from depictions of women by classical painters, especially those of the Renaissance. The representation of women as sensual, soft and delicate, as seen in the works of Rembrandt, Klimt, Modigliani, Degas and others, influences my own creations and the selection and portrayal of the women I photograph. In my work, I construct the figure through clothing, lighting and composition, and in full partnership with my subjects, together we create an original and unique artistic experience for each individual woman."

Azaria Rain Professor Emeritus, founded and directed the Pediatric Cardiology Department at Hadassah, currently heads the Fetal Cardiac Health Center at Hadassah, and an artist.

"From my youth, I was gifted with a visual perception of space, but in my younger years, I did not study drawing or painting. I learned the art of drawing from the book 'Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain' by Betty Edwards from Stanford, and after many years, I had the privilege of studying painting with Leonid Blaklev. I painted in his studio once a week, after my day's work at Hadassah. Blaklev taught using the Russian Academy of Art method, uncompromising and without shortcuts.

Today, I paint with oils in a classical figurative style, mainly still lifes and landscapes, as well as portraits."

Avri Rubinstein Professor Emeritus at the Institute for Drug Research in the School of Pharmacy, and an artist.

Alongside his academic activities (research in the field of targeted drug delivery systems) and involvement in teaching and administration at the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Rubinstein has been drawing with charcoal and pastels for the past 25 years, as well as painting with oils on canvas. He has presented his works in solo and group exhibitions, and in 2021 he received the Danny Leitersddorf Faculty Award for Public Contribution in the Arts for a physician or researcher.

Rubinstein paints landscapes, still lifes, portraits, and works inspired by snapshot photographs of dance and music performances.

Assel Saadi a pharmacist and doctoral student at the School of Pharmacy, and an artist:

"My artistic journey began at a young age, inspired and encouraged by my mother, who allowed me to turn the walls of our home into a colorful canvas. This openness ignited my love for painting, which continued to grow over time. Art is not just a hobby for me, but a space that reflects my identity, a means of expression. The creative process is a voyage of self-discovery and growth, and I look forward to the day when I can dedicate more time to developing my artistic talents, honing my skills, and exhibiting my works around the world – perhaps after completing my doctorate."

Michael Steinitz Professor Emeritus, immunologist, researcher in the Department of Pathology at the Faculty of Medicine, and an artist.

"I paint with pastels on paper, mainly inspired by landscapes. Painting has always been my preferred form of personal expression. This past year, I have been painting daily, sending my children and grandchildren the day's artwork each evening. These paintings are a way of maintaining an ongoing intimate connection with my loved ones.

When I was a young father, painting served as a means of communication with my little children. Inside their sandwich bags, the kids would receive a personal smiling caricature along with a few words for reading practice each morning – a delightful daily surprise from dad. During the COVID-19 pandemic when my family was in isolation, I sent my grandchildren a new smiling caricature every morning – a personal daily surprise from grandpa."

Daniel Zilbersheid analytical chemist in Prof. Barenholz's lab and photographer-artist.

For many years, the photographer Daniel Zilbersheid has been exploring the artistic photography process, developing alternative methods for handmade photographic printing. He manually develops and prints his works without digital processing, and they are exhibited in Israel and internationally. The photographs in this exhibition were created using the Gum Oil process, a photographic printing technique that combines light-sensitive gum with oil paints.