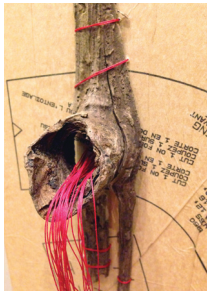


HANA PINTHUS ROTCHILD

I graduated from the Industrial Design department of Bezalel Academy for Art and Design in Jerusalem, Israel. Afterwards, I worked in various multimedia design, furniture design, carpentry and teaching homeless youths. I immigrated to Canada from Israel in 2003. In 2008, I graduated from the Toronto Art Therapy Institute and worked with the elderly. I counseled Government Assisted Refugees in SISO Hamilton and advocated for refugee children who experienced trauma at the Community Child Abuse Council. I recently graduate from the MSW (Masters in Social Work) program at Laurier University specialized in trauma and migration clinical work. My passion is to promote an acceptance of the “other” and work to stop sexual abuse.

The Red Thread Series describes an exploration and observation of a woman’s relationship with herself and her environment. This is an internal and external deconstruction and reconstruction of my *Women Inside a Pomegranate* artwork.

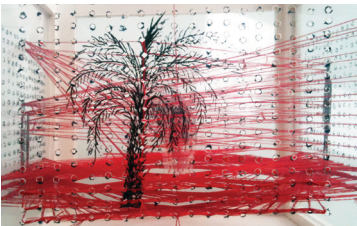
What does the red thread mean in each artwork?
Is the woman trapped or protected in her sphere/box?
What is the direction of movement, inwards or outwards?



The Red Thread Series aims to bring awareness and insights to the consequences of trauma. My work as a clinical MSW and art therapist specializing in the area of trauma and sexual abuse inspired my passion to educate about trauma symptoms and to advocate and support survivors. Research indicates that one of three women and one of five men have been sexually abused by the age of 18. Trauma could be any threatening event that we cannot control and evokes fear of death or serious harm to one’s psyche or body. Sexual abuse is a spectrum of intrusions crossing one’s personal boundaries. It could be unwanted exposure to nudity, pornography, sexual acts on one end of the spectrum, and unwanted or forced touch from a caress to rape on the other end. Trauma symptoms affect every aspect of a person’s life. Symptoms extend from issues of self-esteem, confidence, trust in others, ability to make decisions, ability to focus, an awareness of feelings, and influence the ability to be truly happy or maintain affect regulation. Trauma could cause dissociation, night terror, flashback, unexplained physical pain, self-harm and may lead to suicidal tendencies.

Trauma has significant effects on one’s ability to relate to others and maintain homeostasis. Trauma distorts a person’s core beliefs in oneself, others and the world. For example “I’m a failure or unloved”, or “the world is unsafe”, “people can’t be trusted”. Trauma survivors often feel guilty, ashamed or defected. The response of others to the survivor’s trauma disclosure and narrative has a significant influence. Trauma symptoms may be minimized and contained through therapy. Research suggests that trauma memories are often stored in the non-verbal part of the brain and therefore better expressed and processed through art and movement.

My artwork represents several of the nonverbal notions that trauma survivors feel; mistrust, regression to fetal position, isolation, dissociation, freeze and fear as well as transformation and posttraumatic growth. Please help break the cycle of silence by preventing, reporting and advocating. We all benefit by a world that is free of sexual abuse! A world that will be safe for our children, sisters, brothers, parents and neighbors of all ages, gender, ethnicity or economic status.



O-MA-NOOT

O-MA-NOOT (Hebrew for “art”) Gallery at Beth Jacob Synagogue is a spiritual and creative art sanctuary for Jewish values, themes and artists. We promote community collaboration, cooperation and diversity within a peaceful framework.

THE CORE ART SHOW

Reception
SUNDAY, JUNE 15 AT 3:45PM

Exhibition date
JUNE 15 – SEPTEMBER 9

Beth Jacob Synagogue Art Sanctuary
375 Aberdeen Avenue, Hamilton ON L8P 2R7

ROBIN “TZIPORAH” ZEE (ZILBERG)

Born in Cornwall in 1957, with a background in social services and the arts. As a result of her work having witnessed both the dark and light of life, the nature of her artwork varies but almost always reflects her current state of being. She works with a variety of mixed mediums; oils, acrylics, encaustics, found objects, performing and writing. Robin is self taught with a wide variety of classes on various techniques. Her art works have been displayed in Tuscany, Florida, Colorado, Montreal, Kensington Market, Israel and of course Hamilton’s Art Crawl.

This piece of art work was sparked as a result of studying Kabbalah and learning the creation of the humankind, Adam & Havah-(Adam & Eve). The piece took shape in the wee hours of the morning when the rest of the world sleeps, the birth of creation using a combination of techniques and materials, from the blowing of the Shofar, as if blowing life into us as beings. From what I learned, the first two people were attached back to back and totally unaware of each others presence until loneliness kicked in, and the two were separated while in a deep set sleep only to awaken to be face to face- a soul connection.



TZVIA DEVOR

Tzvia Devor grew up in Israel where she trained at a private art studio, specializing in printmaking, then went on to study at California College of Arts and Crafts, Sheridan College, Dundas Valley School of Art, as well as taking numerous workshops in a wide variety of mediums.

Tzvia spent 6 years teaching art at Kehila Community School in Hamilton, and taught some adult workshops. She has exhibited her art in group shows in Israel, and Banff Center for the Arts. Galleries in Hamilton include MIP, Artists Inc., James North Studio, and at various community events.

Tzvia’s art draws heavily on ancient symbolism and Mediterranean themes; each piece is unique. She has developed her own mixed media techniques, “building the image out”, using an ever expanding variety of materials, some found on her travels around the world and some hand-crafted specifically for each creation. These materials include beads, clay, glass, metal, paper, photographs, plastic, postage stamps, polymer clay, and wood. Tzvia also creates one-of-a-kind symbolic jewelry.

I derive ongoing inspiration from ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian antiquities, the endless possibilities of space exploration, Persian carpet patterns, and exotic trees. My dreams are amazing technicolour adventures from which I awake ready to make new mixed media artwork.



MINA AO

Mina Ao’s photography revolves around subject matters in nature, culture and personal encounters. Each body of work is a discovery. She uses photography as a process to observe, ask questions and to bond. Through photography she presents her observations, and involve the viewers in a cultural dialogue. Other times she simply uses photography as a medium to conduct visual studies of objects and scenes that interest her.

Ao was born and grew up in Macau. She decided to try life in North America after high school and had received her Hons BSc from York University. An elective course in analogue photography during university was where her story with the medium began. She later left her job in information technology and moved to New York City to work with leading photographers in the field. She moved to Hamilton, Ontario a few years ago and continues to create bridges through photography in the Hamilton community.



The season of cherry blossom for me usually starts in the middle of April. The blossoms release their beauty in fleeting moments, with the bloom lasting only for a week or slightly more. During the floral season, I become very sensitive to wind, my heart trembles in the softest breeze. When I see wind in the trees, my mind is on the falling petals. I am missing the blossoms because I don’t know if I will see them again. My hopes slip with every fallen petal.

When I photograph the cherry blossoms, wind is a very present element. The blossoms are in constant motion, the flowerscape is ever changing. The branches sway in the wind, and my camera sways with them. Other times I stay still, and let wind sketch the image. In the sea of cherry blossoms, change is happening, petal by petal.



The wind of change is here. I do not know where it will take us to yet, but I believe the future is in the air. Being in the middle of the change, which way should we go? Where will the petals, which fate moves along with the wind, be drifting to?