

Wings of an Angel / Hanna Ellert

Curator: Shira Mushkin

The everyday objects that surround us in our daily lives tend to characterize us. The things we choose to keep close to us, in our personal space are objects we have carefully chosen have been given to us or were accumulated throughout the years. Some objects are more special to us than others, yet all have been saved for some reason or another. Hanna Ellert is inspired by the everyday objects that surround her, and she incorporates them in her art. By placing them in a new context, she transforms their original meaning. Chocolate bar wrappers, eyeglass cases, jewelry, figurines of small birds and angels are some of the “ready made” objects that can be found in her work. However, it is not the objects alone which define Hannah Ellert but rather how they work together with the dynamic lines in her artwork to express her inner feelings. Similar to the wings of an angel which symbolize freedom, nobility, afterlife, and an uplifting of the soul, Ellert’s art work elevates her to a higher level, freeing her from her physical constraints, giving her strength and uplifting *her* soul.

Hanna Ellert’s work relates to the home and to family life, as well as to the role of women in society. Many of her works are produced on floor rags or dust cloths, originally intended for housecleaning. In addition, crafts associated with women in the home, such as sewing and embroidery, constitute a great deal of Ellert’s art. The artist uses thread and needle as a drawing tool. The lines of her stitches gracefully flow in and out, back and forth across the cloth, creating different textures, often leaving looped strands or dangling threads. There is great rhythm, depth and energy in Ellert’s drawing line as her art emerges from a very private place towards a more public arena, in which it engages in social and multi-cultural discourse concerning gender. The artist’s expressionistic style portrays works that focus on a woman’s body, pain, death, female sexuality and empowerment. This exhibit is composed of Ellert’s drawings, paintings, collages and assemblages, forming a kind of personal journal of the artist’s inner consciousness, while offering a representation of how art and everyday life are inseparable.

Hanna Ellert: Biographical Milestones

1957 – Born on Moshav Mishmar HaShiva

1972 - 1976 – Attends Wizo Tzarfat High School, Tel Aviv, and studies fashion and textile

1976 – Army duty in ‘Nahal’

1977 – Stationed at “The Good Fence” on the Lebanese border. Attends Tel Hai College, Upper Galilee, and studies artistic embroidery

1979 – Becomes member of Kibbutz Tze’elim

1980 – 1984 – Art Studies at Kalisher School of Art, Tel Aviv. Opens studio on Kibbutz Tze’elim

1984 – All art work destroyed by fire in kibbutz studio. Returns to working in fashion

1996 – Leaves Kibbutz Tze’elim and moves to Meitar

2006 – Father falls ill and passes. Returns to working as artist

2012 – Lives and works in Meitar