**In the heart of the desert, in the city of Arad, lies an international treasure whose fate is cloaked in fog.**

In November 2015, the internationally successful Israeli artist \_\_\_ unexpectedly passed away on the eve of an exhibition at the Senate Building Gallery at Ben-Gurion University. She was at the height of her endeavors and in the midst of preparing a forthcoming exhibition in Moscow.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Z"L (1952-2015) was a groundbreaking artist and poet whose works bare a unique personal imprint and an entire artistic language. Her works connected inner truth with life's universal messages. Her work is endowed with the special virtues of great art, mindful of trends and bearing mastery over varied techniques, while being innovative, original, uncompromising and pioneering.

Her work merges matter and spirit in unique ways. The colors and elements of the earth, the desert light, the salt of the sea, and the sense of the sky and the wind, are represented in their material essence in her works. The varied Jewish sources she studied were also absorbed into her creative consciousness: one can sense the percolation of the essential contents of treasured Midrash and Jewish thought into her artistic work. Her creative work is essentially a spiritual and religious one (*Bein Shamayim LaAretz* [Between Heaven and Earth], Prof. Haviva Pedaya).

Yacoby was recognized and esteemed in Israel and around the world. Arad, the city where she lived and worked, far from the power circles of the art world in Israel, broke through to international consciousness and recognition: **she presented over 130 exhibits**, of which 67 were solo exhibitions, across five continents, **in major galleries and museums in Israel and abroad**, most of them sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, the Foreign Ministry, and Israeli embassies. Her works were warmly received wherever she presented, becoming a mirror for the observer of their own cultural symbols and personal, local language. She won scholarships and awards. Her works have been preserved in important private and museum collections in Israel and abroad.

In 2008, she erected a permanent display titled **"The Center of Art and Creation - Woman of A Thousand Voices."** At the center of the space, she placed a unique and powerful installation, which was essentially a spiritual journey of healing and empowerment in transition from the "Land of the dead" to the "Forest of life." **The installation offers a bridge of reconciliation and fusion of fragments, healing and comfort in the meeting of peoples and nations, and a prayer for peace,** alongside a deep personal process of transformation and personal growth. Since its opening, the Center has been an educational cultural arts center (supported and recognized by Mifal HaPayis, the Israeli lottery organization), an attraction for students, art lovers and intellectuals, as well as for tour groups attending development and empowerment workshops, and for intercultural encounters from local communities and the entire world.

\_\_\_\_\_ saw her works as the objects of shamanic life; works of devotion and talismans created by dust, sandstorms, rain, and sun. In the many documents she left behind, she said: “I was here only to bring them to the world, and now I must return them to the universe. **The images created by grace will go to grace and healing. My mission is to deliver the gospel of life.”**

Following her unexpected death, Irit Tal, curator of the Tel Aviv University Gallery, wrote: **“The work of \_\_\_\_ Z”L is among the most important of the middle generation of Israeli art, authentic and unique...**Working on the verge of detachment and physical isolation in the heart of the desert, she has produced extraordinary art, complex in its content, its practice, and its transcendental, religious and mythical tendencies. **As such, it constitutes an original and unique current within the history of Israeli art, and makes a decisive contribution to the local culture that is worthy of the highest preservation"** (9.2.16).

This site and its central catalog are an (intermediate) product of an ongoing process of documentation, cataloging and preserving the work left behind by the artist. The process is carried out by her family, with the support of **Mifal HaPayis**, stemming from **a commitment to preserve her work, to continue to voice and her unique contribution in Israel and the world**, with the hope that it will form the basis for the vision and plans that she has left us with her passing: **to establish and run the Center of Art – the ‘Home on the Mountain,’ as a voice in the desert**. The Center’s cornerstone was laid during her lifetime, in the presence of the late Mr. Shimon Peres.