**Title:** Entrance to the Tomb of the Patriarchs, 1951

**Year (Hebrew):** 5711

**Year:** 1951

**Location:** Israel

**Short description**

A black and white reproduction of an oil painting by the Israeli painter Munia Lander of the entrance steps to the Tomb of the Patriarchs (Cave of Machpela) in Hebron.

**Detailed description**

**​**This is a black and white reproduction of an oil painting by the Israeli painter Munia Lander (1907–1971) showing the entrance steps to the Tomb of the Patriarchs (Cave of Machpela) in Hebron. This reproduction is from 1951, but the original painting was painted before 1940.

**Would You Like to Know More?**

**The Tomb of the Patriarchs (Me'arat HaMachpela)**- The Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron is the world’s oldest Jewish site. According to the Bible, Abraham purchased the land as a burial site for his wife Sarah. The biblical matriarchs and patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Rebecca, and Leah are also believed to be buried here. The fourth matriarch, Rachel, died in childbirth near Bethlehem and was buried there. The structure surrounding the Tomb of the Patriarchs was built in the Second Temple period by Herod. The Tomb of the Patriarchs is also a holy site for Muslims who, in the Byzantine period, declared it a mosque. The tomb is currently shared by Muslims and Jews, each with their own section.

**Munia Lander -** Munia Lander was born in Ukraine and moved to Israel in 1922. He studied at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem. In 1926 and 1928, Lander participated in art exhibitions held at the Tower of David in Jerusalem. He signed the works with the name “Ben-Artzi.” During these years he won a prize for designing a cover for the Jewish National Fund’s (JNF) Golden Book – a collection of names of individuals and organizations that have made a significant contribution to the JNF. The covers of the volumes are created by Israeli artists. There are currently 26 volumes of the Golden Book which are kept in the JNF offices in Jerusalem. Lander was a founder of the artists’ village Ein Hod.

**The Bezalel Academy of Art and Design -** The Bezalel Academy of Art and Design was established in 1906 and named for Bezalel, the craftsman tasked with building the tabernacle (*mishkan*) as described in the book of Exodus. Today Bezalel is a world renowned art school with over 2,000 students. The art created by its students and faculty in the early 1900s was considered the springboard for twentieth-century Israeli visual arts.

**Teaching Suggestions**

**​​Art** teachers can use this painting when discussing the history of Israeli art and the use of religious sites as inspiration. Lander’s painting can spark interest in Israeli art in general and encourage students to discover contemporary Israeli art and artists.

**Israel Studies** teachers can use the painting and the history of Munia Lander during a discussion of the visual arts in the first half of the twentieth century and the establishment of the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design and Ein Hod.

**Jewish Studies** teachers can use this picture when teaching about Abraham and the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron.

**Discussion Points**

**Observation**

* Describe the painting.
* What are the prominent features of the painting?
* What colours are used in the painting?

**Reading Between the Lines**

* The painting is by Munia Lander. Research the artist online.
* Where did he live?
* Where did he study?
* Where did he work?
* The painting is of the entrance to the Tomb of the Patriarch (Cave of Machpelah) in Hebron. Find out more about the site.
* Why do you think the artist chose to paint this site?
* The item is a black and white illustration of an oil painting.
* What colours do you think were used in the original painting?
* What emotions do you think Lander was trying to evoke in his painting?
* Compare Lander's painting of the Tomb of the Patriarchs with other works of [modern Israeli art](http://www.artbeat.co.il/Eng/israeli-art-shop). Can you see influences of Lander's style in contemporary art?

**Connections**

* Have you ever visited the Tomb of the Patriarchs? If not, search for images and information online. If so, does this painting convey the feelings that you had during your visit? Explain your answer.
* Israeli art covers many topics including historical sites, landscapes, portraits, and abstracts.  
  If you were painting in Israel, what would your subjects be? Explain your answer.
* Do you have any Israeli artworks in your home, school, or synagogue?  
  Who are the artists? What are the subjects of the pieces? What do you like about these artworks?

**Creative Ideas**

* Munia Lander was a founder of the Ein Hod artists' village. Choose a current visual artist from the Ein Hod website and create an online gallery tour of their work.
* Create a piece of art with an Israeli theme.  
  You may use any medium that you like.

**Target audience:** Primary School, Junior High, High School, Informal Education, Higher Education

**NLI Links**

[NLI Photo Collection](http://merhav.nli.org.il/primo-explore/search?query=lsr30,exact,%D7%90%D7%95%D7%A1%D7%A3%20%D7%94%D7%AA%D7%A6%D7%9C%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%9D,AND&sortby=rank&vid=NLI&lang=iw_IL&mode=advanced)

[Photo of Hebron, 1857](http://beta.nli.org.il/en/items/NNL03_PENN700002853/NLI_Photo)  
[Photo of Hebron, 1930](http://primo.nli.org.il/primo_library/libweb/action/dlDisplay.do?vid=NLI_Photo&docId=NNL03_Bitmuna700133589)