

Judy Tal Kopelman

Graffiti artist, author, teacher, resident artist at the Neve Schechter Artists' Lab



Judy Tal Kopelman is disarming. Petite, with a great smile and genuine sensitivity, she exudes calm and tranquility. Yet, watch out. Here is a powerhouse of energy, intellectual depth and creative talent.

A descendent of the Ba'al Shem Tov and grandparents who survived Bergen Belsen, Judy is an amalgam of both academic achievement (her father, Prof. Uri Tal z"l was a respected scholar of Contemporary Jewish History), Jewish knowledge and social activism. She has earned degrees from Haifa University in Fine Arts and Psychology and a degree in Visual Communications from Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy; Judy has produced a major archival project at Yad Vashem and written two well-received books related to the Holocaust: "Grandpa's Third Drawer" for children and "The Demon from Berlin".

"As a graffiti artist, I am engaged in bringing warring groups together. My works are thought-provoking, but always with a consensus in mind and a language that speaks to all," says Judy. With murals depicting chapters from Psalms and Genesis in Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, as part of the nation-wide "929" Tanach Project (there are 929 chapters in the Bible), Judy demands that her audience "bring a fresh commentary to our Jewish sources. I want my works to be physical. To immerse meaning into our daily lives. To move the eye and the heart."

As one of the resident artists at Neve Schechter, Judy teaches a creative writing workshop, mentors and moderates literary events, and splashes color onto the walls at 42 Chelouche Street. Her graffiti works include: "Goddess of Justice" for a High Holiday exhibit and "A Tribute to Agnon" on display last year. Looking ahead, she is planning a "wall" commemorating Leah Goldberg to coincide with a new cultural series Neve Schechter is offering on the 'greats' in Hebrew literature.

A Good Week for Judy:

"The genre of street art sends a social message: that public space is for all. The possibility of taking art outside the walls of the museum changes the urban landscape. I am doing that at Neve Schechter."

Shavua Tov • A Good Week @ Schechter