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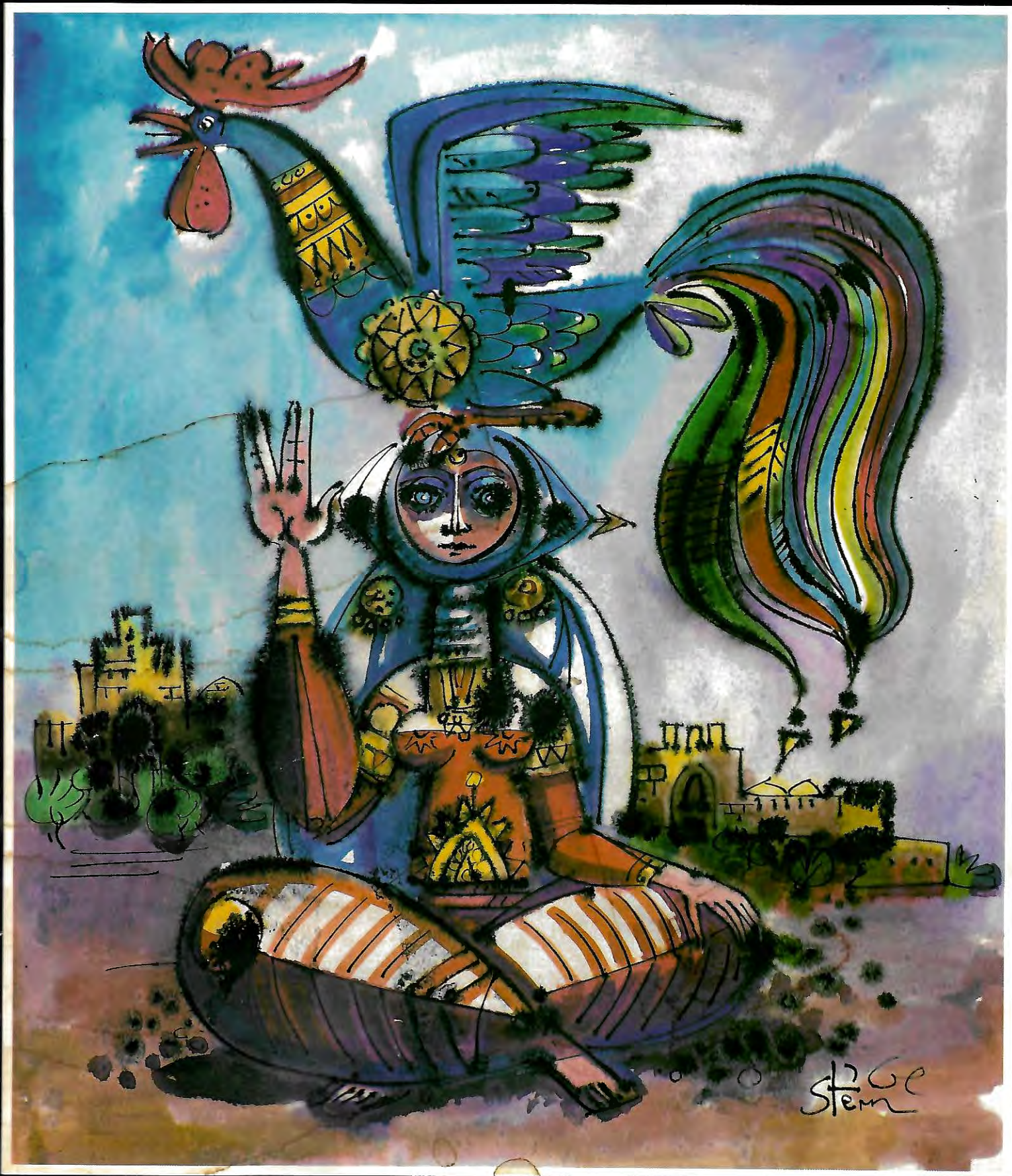
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Jossi Stern

**CAPITOL, WASHINGTON. D.C. 1986**





Back from the Western Wall

*O Israel, you are mine, my chosen ones; to you are Abraham's family, and he was my friend.*

ISAIAH 41:8



# JOSSI STERN

*The heavens declare the  
glory of God, and the firmaments show his handiwork...*

PSALM XIX

**T**HERE IS SUCH joy and skill in what this Israeli artist makes of God's firmament and those who walk about under it, that the pleasure that comes from his drawings seems to combine a love of the glory of the godhead and a desire to capture on paper the images of his handiwork.

At first glance, the drawings of people, the rabbinical students, the natives of the new cities of the Middle East, the cubist dwellings under a hot sun, all seem done with a line innocent and wandering. They are patterned to catch the moment. Mostly, his people face us, waiting, as he draws them; as if proud to pose, or awed to be a subject. There is no great seeking for an emotional style in the artist, no striving to bring thunder and terror into his work. This is its great charm. He fulfills the demands that Oliver Holmes makes of an artist: "The only thing that marks the true artist is a clear perception and a firm bold hand."

Jossi Stern has the perception for those who may seek deeper meaning in his pen and ink, and he certainly has one of the boldest and firmest of hands. His drawings sprawl across the paper, and one can read them like writing, a collection of busy people from various corners of the world, still to be fully merged into a final culture. So the artist wanders, picks up people on the run, finds men in cafes dissecting the problems of the world, women shopping, even the suggestion of stone walls older than history proclaiming Coca Cola. He finds no faults, creates no causes; this he states in his simple line—is where three religions were born, here once walked David and King Solomon, and thousands of unnamed heroes who were over-run by alien cultures. But these have survived, while the great empires are dust, and Caesar's worn image on old coins is dug up in the hills that surround the artist.

Jossi (Joseph) Stern was born far from his present world, in the Bakon Hills of Hungary, in 1923. He was already drawing when at the age of ten he moved with his family to Budapest. When Hitler's bestial horror with its promise of death sounded in 1939, the young artist made for Palestine in an old ship, only to be declared an illegal immigrant and sent to a prison camp for six months. In 1943, there were those who saw his talent and he was enrolled in the Bezalel school of Arts and Crafts in Jerusalem. Outstanding as a student, he became a teacher of Graphic Arts there. He still teaches, aware that the artist refreshes himself through the younger generations, and so avoids becoming set in an outworn mold.



Photo. Karen Benzion

Stern is in the vanguard of the artists that Israel will soon produce. He is among the first who found in the patterns and shapes of this land of the Bible and the Arab wars, themes, and the faces and the people that go with them. After him will come the native stock, grown in the hard and beautiful land, to carry forward what he has already shown in tradition; the walled cities contrasting with the rising newer shapes, the robed figures from history merging with the modern citizen who has just come back from flying at the speed of sound. Stern's value is that he is the graphic artist as a true historian, creating drawing that has for the first time a homeland to record, and a heroic population to set down on paper; his drawn line agreeing with Charles Dickens to the tragic progress of the world, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

In 1947, as the bitter years of the war took toll of the new nation's right to survive, he became an official war artist. One result was the one-man show of his work in Tel-Aviv.

Since then he has studied in London at the Royal College of Art and like all artists was for a time drawn to Paris. By 1951 he was back in Israel, aware that a true artist must have roots, and that growth comes only on one's own soil.



Stern is recognized in Israel as one of its most delightful artists. His drawings are exhibited and appear in many publications. They are the man and his world. Their grace and charm show that he has understood Gustave Flaubert's remark: "If your work of art is good, if it is true, it will find its echo and make its place."

If Israel is to have its own School of Jerusalem, it can begin with Jossi Stern's drawings. There are many gifted artists in the country of Israel, but they have not yet coagulated into a personal style native to the land. Nor have they yet produced a group of geniuses as did Paris over a century or so, from David to Picasso. But the desire is there, and if peace truly comes, and the artist can have the place and the tools for prolonged work, much can be expected.

Right now we do have this talented man, his work exists and is reproduced. The good omen of it is that it makes no great claims, attempts no world-shaking new order or avant garde mode. Stern remains the not-too-innocent observer, always ready to put pen to paper and catch history on the move, and perhaps mankind at the crossroads to a better future.

Extracted from the book, "Drawings of Yossi Stern", in the "Master Draughtsman Series", by Borden Publishing Company, California, U.S.A.

Stephen Longstreet



The Western Wall



- 1923 Born in the village of Kajar, Hungary.
- 1939 Came to Israel with a group of "illegal immigrants" on the "Zecharia" boat.
- 1943 Studied at the *Bezalel* Academy of Arts in Jerusalem for three years.
- 1946 Was awarded the *Herman Struck* prize, as the best student at the Bezalel Academy of Arts.
- 1947 First one-man show at the Yunes Gallery, Jerusalem.
- 1947—1948 Worked as "army artist" in the "Hagana" organization and in "Zahal" (Israel Defence Forces). During the siege of Jerusalem, worked as the graphics editor of the "Hamagen" newspaper (a weekly of the "Hagana") and later as an artist of "Bamachaneh", a weekly magazine of "Zahal" (Israel Defence Forces).
- 1948 A collection of his drawings about the War of Independence, "Fully Mobilized", was published.
- 1948 One-man show in the Mikra Studio, Tel Aviv.
- 1949 Student of John Menton, lecturer at the Royal College of Arts, London.
- 1951 One-man show at the Artists' House, Jerusalem.
- 1951 His collection of drawings about the "Gadna" (paramilitary youth movement) and about youth in Israel, "Beohaley Yisrael", was published.
- 1952 From this year on, worked several years as an artist-journalist at "Yediot Aharonot", "D'var Hashavua", "Maariv L'noar".
- 1953—1959 Illustrated ten different books.
- 1960 One-man show at the Rina Gallery, Jerusalem.
- 1963 One-man show at the Chemerinsky Gallery, Jerusalem.
- 1964 One-man show at the Beit Haam, Jerusalem.
- 1967 After the Six-Day-War had 26 exhibitions all over the U.S.A and Canada.
- 1967 Won the *UNESCO* Prize.
- 1968—1970 Had 12 one-man shows in Israel and overseas.
- 1969 Was awarded the *Nordau* Prize.
- 1970 Started to be represented by The Old City Art Gallery, Jerusalem.
- 1970 Had three exhibitions in South Africa and Rhodesia.
- 1974 The book, "Drawings of Yossi Stern", in the "Master Draughtsman Series", was published in the U.S.A.
- 1975 Gave a series of ten lectures on art for Israeli Television.
- 1975—1980 Had 34 shows all over Israel.
- 1977 His illustrations of the Bible in "People of the Book" were published by *Collins* in six languages and twelve countries.
- 1977 Exhibited in the Frankfurt Book Fair.
- 1977 Dutch Television filmed a movie called "An Artist's Life" about Yossi Stern's life and work.
- 1978 Was awarded the *Herzl* Prize for his album, "*People of the Book*".
- 1979 Had four one-man exhibitions in the U.S.A.
- 1980 Book of drawings and paintings, "Jerusalem", written by Dave Foster of England, was published by Keter, Jerusalem.
- 1981 Exhibitions in Canada (Toronto and Montreal).
- 1982 Book of drawings and paintings "Home Coming", written by Nathan Efrati, was published by the "Israel Economist Publishing House".
- 1983 Special 60th Anniversary exhibition in the Artist's House, Jerusalem.
- 1984 Exhibited in Army camps, in Israel.
- 1985 Exhibited in Paris. Geneva and Vienna.



*People from around the world will come on pilgrimages and pour into  
Jerusalem from many foreign cities...*

ZECHARIAH 8:20



Damascus Gate





King David

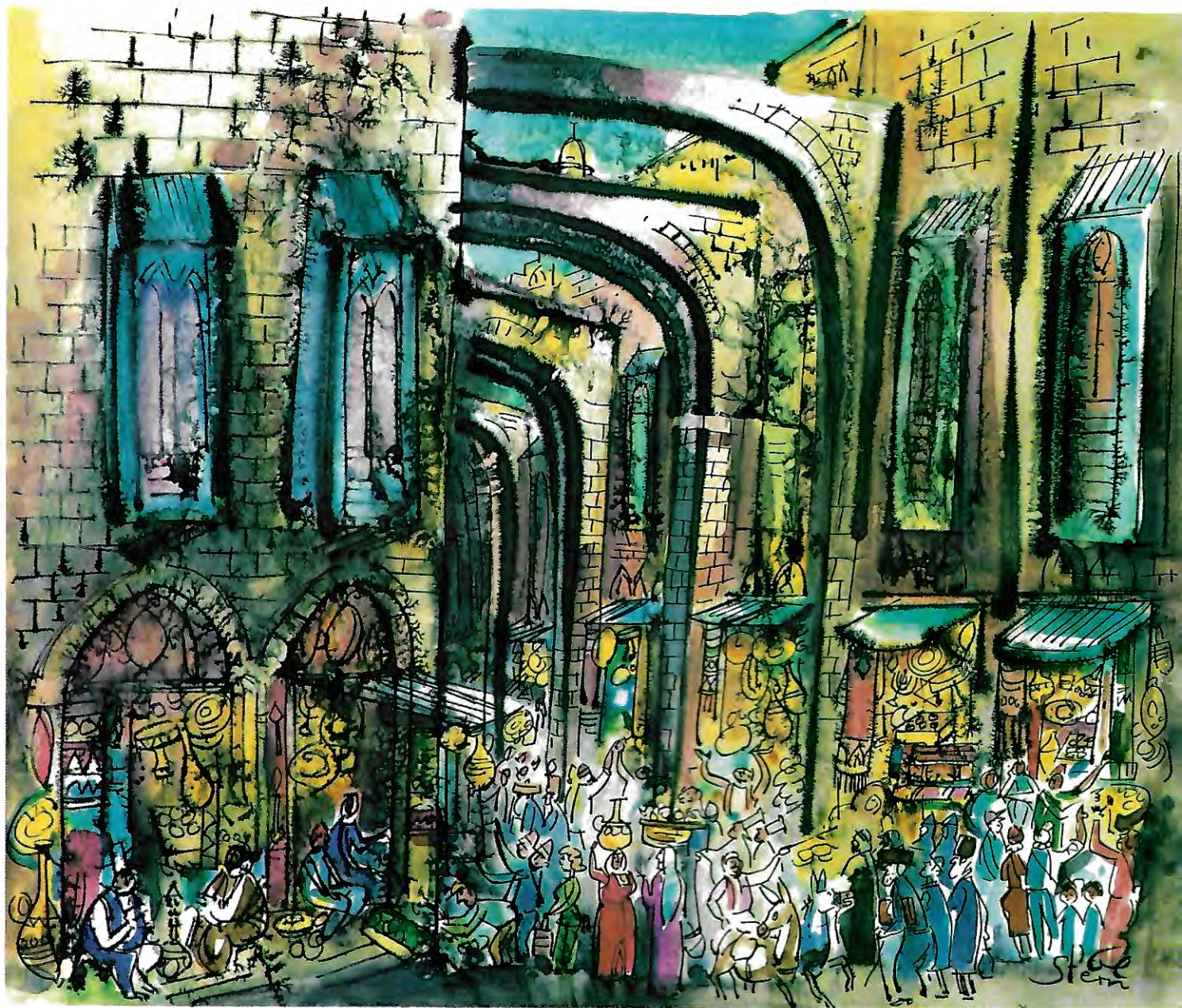
*David, the anointed of the God of Jacob; David, the sweet psalmist of Israel*

2 SAMUEL 23:1



*O Jerusalem, may there be peace within your walls...*

PSALM 122:7



Via Dolorosa



*Just as the mountains surround and protect Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds  
and protects his people*

PSALM 125:2



Geth Semane





Inbal Dancers

*My beloved is a bouquet of flowers in the gardens of Ein Gedi.  
How beautiful you are, my love, how beautiful...*

SONG OF SOLOMON 1:14,15





Simchat Torah

*“Walk about Zion... count her towers; consider her ramparts; go through her palaces; that you may tell it to the next generation.”*

PSALMS 48:12,13



List of Paintings by Jossi Stern .  
In Honour of Israel's Independence Day.  
Held in the Capitol, Washington  
May — 1986

- |                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. The Cock's Crow                    | 31. To the Cardo               |
| 2. Ruth                               | 32. Judean Hills               |
| 3. Inbal Dancers                      | 33. David Street               |
| 4. King David                         | 34. A view from Jericho        |
| 5. Deborah, The Prophet               | 35. Sha'arei Hesed             |
| 6. Saul and David                     | 36. Joseph interpreting dreams |
| 7. The Burning Bush                   | 37. Sea of Galilee             |
| 8. A view from Mount Zion             | 38. Waiting for the Messiah    |
| 9. Hulda, the Prophet                 | 39. A view from Bethlehem      |
| 10. To the Ball                       | 40. The Judean Desert          |
| 11. The Prophet                       | 41. Via Dolorosa               |
| 12. Musicians                         | 42. Chain Street               |
| 13. Escorting the Groom               | 43. Geth Semane                |
| 14. Tish'a B'Av                       | 44. The City of David          |
| 15. Two Prophets                      | 45. Herod's Gate               |
| 16. Hassidic Hora                     | 46. The Christian Quarter      |
| 17. In a Coffee House                 | 47. The Jewish Quarter         |
| 18. Old Timers                        | 48. Before dawn                |
| 19. A view from Yemin Moshe.          | 49. Jerusalem of Gold          |
| 20. Ahalan Wasahalan                  | 50. Zion Gate                  |
| 21. To the market                     | 51. Pilgrims                   |
| 22. Business as usual                 | 52. Midnight                   |
| 23. A camel tour                      | 53. Jonah the Prophet          |
| 24. A view from Mount of Olives       | 54. Simchat Torah              |
| 25. Holiday Eve in the Jewish Quarter | 55. Back from The Western Wall |
| 26. Damascus Gate                     | 56. Rabbi Elimelech            |
| 27. The Western Wall                  | 57. Mazal Tov                  |
| 28. Jaffa Gate                        | 58. The Scribe                 |
| 29. Mahane Yehuda Quarter             | 59. Masks                      |
| 30. Musrara Quarter                   | 60. To the well                |

# Jossi Stern

Represented by:



## The old city art gallery

33 Hayehudim St. Old Jerusalem Israel Tel. 02.273757

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