
THE ART OF ORI
a collection of art
by
ORI BENGAL

Ori Bengal (@TheArtofOri) is an artist whose daily creations since 2012 have captivated audiences worldwide. With over 4,200 pieces to his name, Ori's art isn't just about quantity; Combined with his mastery of story-telling, it creates emotional resonance and personal significance that make his works literal prized possessions.




Born in Israel, Ori rekindled his passion for art after a decade-long hiatus, when (on 4/22/2012) he realized that if he's not creating, he's not living. He paints, sculpts, carves, welds, plays with his food, and is now diving deep into newer technologies like 3D, NFTs, AI, and Augmented Reality. But regardless of the medium, his pieces, like him, are playful, bold and unique; whether they are on a magazine cover, large canvas, or digitally travelling through social media.

Ori's adventurous spirit and commitment to leaving a positive mark on the world are evident in his work. He uses his art to support charitable causes, collaborating with organizations like Miss America, the Rodney King Foundation, and Alice Cooper's Solid Rock foundation.

Ori has created custom commissions for David Copperfield, William Shatner, an NFT series for Snoop Dogg and Scott Page (of Pink Floyd/Toto/Supertramp fame). In February 2024 he sent his art to the moon in collaboration with Galactic Legacy Labs, Intuitive Machines, and SpaceX, making his art truly out of this world.

Discover more about Ori Bengal and his art at TheArtOfOri.com and on various social media platforms under TheArtOfOri.

# “Jaw-Dropping is my minimum standard.”

This is Ori's motto, since "I make grown-ups cry" can easily be taken out of context!

Ori is known for creating bold, imaginative, and hyper-personal works of art that elicit joy and wonder.

He comfortably switches between nearly countless subjects and styles, but is often hired for his fantasy portraits, memorial art, and pet art.









Every person values different things.

Ori's job is to figure out what those are. This leads to artwork that everyone is awed by, but that has a whole 2nd layer of story and depth to it which is instantly gotten by anyone that knows the recipient well.

"Whoa! That's totally you!"

Itay has a deep love of all things fantasy. On top of that, he values high fashion, looking dapper, and quality time-pieces (such as the Rolex Daytona pictured in this painting).

Anybody that sees it thinks it's a great painting.

Anybody that sees it and knows Itay is blown away because it captures him so well.

A painting should not just capture the look of a person, but also their mannerisms and personality, their story, and their hopes and dreams.




Tia and Ori connected recently, and quickly they could tell that they had a lot in common: A passion for being entertainers, an appreciation for the power of words, and a penchant for doing the things that others may think of as scary or impossible.

When Tia found out that Ori was going to attend the TEDx event in person, she suggested they each make art pieces of each other, and he agreed. Now Ori had even more reasons to ask random questions and get to know this amazing author, speaker, entrepreneur, badass.

Ori's specialty is to take someone's life story – hopes, dreams, accomplishments, likes, and more…. And weave it into an epic fantasy painting that is bold and colorful and interesting as you are. A big part of his process is research, which is often in the form of asking questions (but biographies, youtube, and reaching out to peoples' friends in secret are not unusual).

Ori included everything that Tia told him about herself- important occupations that shaped her path, goals, likes, passions. The one thing that he did not include was that she was studying law before she got into DJing and being a radio personality.

Items shared: racecar certified (F1/Nascar/Street), a DJ, a radio personality, an author, a TEDx speaker, has flown Piper planes, loves Philadelphia, wants to some day go to France, loves the number 35 / the moon / the stars, crazy about the New Orleans Saints and their logo, feels she has a Marilyn Monroe vibe, has a Tips website she's proud of, and she's always wearing this dark purple lipstick.



Eric and Michelle's Beverly Hills mansion, complete with a Ferrari and designer luxuries, is the epitome of grandeur. Yet, amidst these symbols of affluence, it's Ori's painting that ignites the most conversation.

When delivering a large painting of Muhammad Ali that they commissioned, Ori snuck a quick photo of the small 19 year old photo of their wedding night. It was small and faded, with wine stains.

Instead of the original 8"x10" size, the painting is 3 times larger - 24"x30" on Canvas. Rather than faded, it is very detailed and vibrant. Rather than fading, Ori's art will last centuries, and can be passed on to their kids.



The transformation brings smiles all around, as Ori playfully morphed Eric's shorts into formal pants and switched a beer for a bouquet of roses. He even reimagined Eric's ever-present cigars into a whimsical emblem of love, showcasing Ori's flair for personalization.

This delightful surprise is a testament to the close relationships Ori cultivates with his collectors, understanding their stories and translating them into artful legacies.



In 2019 Ori had an incident where some of his memory had temporarily failed - he could not remember stories that he'd told a million times, and even some of his vocabulary was just gone. He was terrified, and vowed that he would use his skills to contribute to mental health research.  In 2024 he got to fulfil that vow and make this for the One Humanity Foundation, which specializes in helping mental health research and awareness. Fulfilling that vow has shifted Ori's primary focus to helping with philanthropies.

Ori placed over 30 different symbols for Mental Health awareness and overcoming, as well as showing what the foundation's president requested, "With help, these kids with autism can come out of their shell and share their light with the world."



1 week after Ori's revelation that he needs to make philanthropy his primary focus, he was contacted by someone that saw the Mental Health piece, and wanted a piece to help another foundation that is providing homes, job placement, education, and counseling to kids in the foster care system.  They were having a golf tournament at PGA National golf course within 2 weeks.

Ori researched what golfers are into- which seems to be heritage, and prestigious holes.  Since Jack Nicklaus had designed the very prestigious courses at PGA National, Ori painted vintage Jack Nicklaus (1970's) at "The Bear Trap" (the name for the difficult holes there) on a 40"x70" sized canvas, and even offered 20"x35" framed and matted limited edition prints, so the foundation can raise even more.

Ori even got a golf pro to coach him on the subtleties of the stance and swing, to ensure that true golfers could appreciate the piece.




NCC-1701
YOU CAN CALL ME BILL
WILLIAM SHATNER
TEKWAR
THE SHIVA CLUB
WILLIAM SHATNER
THE TRANSFORMED MAN

“Good News! You get to present William Shatner with a painting on the red carpet of his newest film premiere on his 93rd birthday next week.”

“All right! That is good news.  It also means I have less than a week to create a painting.  Ok then… Beating crazy deadlines is kind of my thing…. What do you need me to paint?”

“His life story.”

“Oh… Is that all?”

“You know… he was Captain Kirk… Then he was TJ Hooker… Then he was Denny Crane…. and so on…. Just do one of your big pieces, of that. ”

Ori had made a concept (and it looked good, too) of Shatner as all the well known characters that he’s played. However, after all these years, Ori trusts his intuition. This time, intuition said that the instructions he was given were too obvious of a choice, and something more special would be needed. Ori’s traditional all-consuming research phase began with Shatner’s autobiography, followed by blogposts, interviews, podcasts, and anything else he can find.

One thing that Ori noticed was that Bill often said in his biography that “I only did that for a paycheck.” So the artist chose to look for things that Shatner hadn’t said that about.  He looked for things that William seemed proud to have done - whether they were a success or not.

3/4 Of the deadline gone, and Ori was sent a link to the film’s trailer. On this page he saw that the film’s poster had Shatner as Kirk, as TJ Hooker, as Denny Crane, etc….  Hooray for intuition, awkward crisis averted.

Ori finished  the 40"x32" painting that contained 23 different things that Shatner is proud of at 7am on Thursday morning. He slept for 1.5 hours as a safety measure (since he’d barely slept an hour a night in order to complete such a detailed painting in such little time), then drove 8 hours to Los Angeles, and met up with the film’s executive producers, the ones who commissioned the painting.

He was warned by people that wanted to spare his feelings, “We appreciate that you worked so hard on this.  We just want you to know… Bill… He’s 93… He doesn’t have much of a filter… He might say….”

“Mean things?  I’m a professional artist, I’ve got thick skin.”

Nobody knew what the painting looked like, or what the concept was.  But when that fabric was lifted off of the canvas, everyone gasped in stunned excitement.  Shatner did not say mean things at all. He said “Hey Man, that is gorgeous!”

The producers later informed Ori that Bill told them that out of everything that happened on his 93rd birthday - a birthday, a film premiere, a fancy dinner with his producers, and a big party to celebrate him and his film, the painting was his favorite part, and that he’s going to put it in his entryway where everyone can see it.  Ori smiled, but was focused on sneaking out so he could catch up on his much neglected sleep.



Meet Harris, a charismatic magician from Spain, who recently earned a spot on Britain's Got Talent. His unique act called for a poster that would do justice to his vivacious humor and showmanship. At his side is his whimsical ventriloquist companion, Barack O'Llama. Together, they dazzle audiences with sleight-of-hand card tricks, invite spectators to choose a tortilla ('any tortilla'), and light up some mischief with surprise fireworks.

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In Ori's hands, minimal information transforms into a visual spectacle. With just a brief description and a few reference photos, Ori conjured this vibrant portrait of Harris—twice. Initially, and then changes when Harris underwent a remarkable transformation, losing 23% body fat. Ori reimagined the artwork to mirror Harris's new look, ensuring the poster was an accurate representation of the magician's renewed physique and spirit.

In an amusing case of life imitating art, Ori's depiction of the magician's uniform has inspired Harris' real-world magician-wear.




In 2024, when TEDx Wilmington (one of the largest and longest ongoing TEDx events) needed posters, they chose to reach out to Ori who could take a complex concept such as “Currency” and create illustrate it in a way that people could grasp. According to the organizer, this was by far the most successful poster that they’ve had in their 12 years of the event. Ori also created 4 versions of the event so that the organizers could promote to different genders and ethnicities, reaching a wider audience.


Tar'le'se's

Tar'Lese's journey is a testament to resilience and triumph. Despite experiencing profound challenges, including the loss of both parents and overcoming personal adversities, she has always persisted and endured, and crafted her own success and the empowerment of other women. Her story isn't defined by the obstacles she's faced, but by her unwavering positive spirit and her relentless drive to inspire and uplift those around her.

Amidst her many achievements, there is one that Tar'Lese has dreamt of for years, but has not achieved yet. She harbors the dream of one day opening her own Rollerskating Rink – a space where joy and community can flourish. This aspiration, combined with her affection for unicorns, is a symbol of her enduring optimism and whimsy.

Ori has woven these threads of Tar'Lese's personality and dreams into a colorful visual celebration. Not only does the artwork capture the joy of Rollerskating, the joy of achieving one's dream, and multiple neon unicorns, but he made sure to capture the additional personal touches. One such detail is the inclusion of her tattoo "12:34," a daily timestamp for gratitude, which she honors without fail.



Getting to donate some art work for Alice Cooper's Solid Rock Foundation was a life-changing experience for Ori.

It was Ori's first live auction.

It was Ori's first painting to sell for 5 figures.

It was Ori's first time getting to donate 5 figures to a good cause. That changed the trajectory of his career, and set many things in motion. The results of those things will likely be listed in the next book, but for this one, Ori has already created works for large organizations, as well as ones so small that they are trying to cure a condition that only 30 people worldwide are reported to have it.

And of course, can't forget that people started sharing his profile picture, saying "I know him." Which actually was more irritating than exciting, because it implies that just standing next to a celebrity is more important than the tens of thousands of hours of hard work that went into getting that opportunity in the first place.

The event itself was quite magical as well, seeing Alice Cooper and friends perform... We're talking a member of Chicago, The Doors, Cheap Trick, Kiss, and more.... performing together. Definitely not something you see every day.



Ori's artistry is a blend of serendipity and skill, delivering not just exquisite art, but also a unique tale for every collector. His proficiency, honed over a daily art practice spanning a decade, once led him to a playful wager: that he could craft a piece so moving it would leave Scott's girlfriend, Erin, in tears by the end of their date night.



When Scott couldn't provide reference material, Ori scoured Erin's social media profiles and only found one image that was clear enough to use for reference. Erin wading into a lake.

Erin was unaware of a painting being made, and Scott had no clue what Ori was going to paint. But the artist only proceeded after confirming the couple is truly in love. Because his paintings leave a very moving and unforgetable experience.

As they hung up, Scott thanked Ori and said that Erin valued thoughtfulness over material value. He didn't know that Ori had already taken the aquatic route, but his example was that her favorite gift was a simple mermaid-tail blanket that cost him $20, because as a child, Erin longed to be a mermaid, a dream so dear that its unfulfillment brought her to tears each Christmas. This kind of serendipity is pretty standard for Ori.

When dawn broke, Ori revealed the digital masterpiece.

True to his prediction, it elicited a profound emotional response: a gasp, tears, an enveloping hug, and a series of passionate kisses that seemed like they would never end.

The tears were wiped away, but the memory will always remain.... As will the painting, since Ori's art is museum grade and lasts a few centuries.

Ori's commitment went beyond the digital unveiling; he drove cross-country to deliver the painting that immortalized a lifetime of wishing.

Ori's collectors do not just get world-class art, but each has their own "Ori Story".


THE MAGIC MAN
DAVID COPPERFIELD'S
HISTORY OF MAGIC
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As a dreamer who is often told to be more realistic or accept things as they are, Ori has had to question his dreams and his ways many times, and each time he has chosen to keep believing that magic is real and that dreams do come true. There are things that help believe that - things like fireflies, and things like mind-blowing illusionist billionaires.

Getting to present David Copperfield with a painting was a real honor, as he has inspired Ori over the years. David has again and again made Ori believe that magic is real, and his success demonstrates that people want to believe in magic, and that chasing dreams does not always end up in homelessness and ruin.

This was one of the more inspiring research deep-dives, as it involved watching hours of magic shows and being blown away, despite that the illusions are decades old, and being viewed at the lowest resolution that youtube offers. Then there were all the interviews and articles, and Ori even remembered that he had some friends deep inside the magic industry, and they were grilled for any rare information that may not be out in the simple google searches, and this bore some fruit.

Ultimately, there were 22 different items placed into the painting, aside from David himself. Ori tried to playfully emulate David's showmanship "Like magic, I have placed 22 things in this painting, and I have written them down, and sealed them in this envelope" - David's version is far more mindblowing - "But you're David Copperfield, so you'll probably find 36 things."

Ori then said "This is normally the part where I yank the fabric, go woosh, and make something beautiful appear... but it just hit me, how often am I going to be standing next to the world's literal foremost expert on yanking fabrics and making things appear and disappear. Would you do me this great honor? I'll never wash my velvet again."

David replied "You do it. Maybe I'll learn something!" - at which point, Ori blushed.

David immediately pointed out one of the things that were a little more abstract-- the color scheme for Ori's painting was extremely similar to the Statue of Liberty illusion poster, which an industry insider revealed to Ori that David was very fond of.

The thing that blew Ori away was how nice and kind David seemed to be. He made time for the unveiling, he was extremely polite and friendly, he gave Ori a hug, cracked jokes. People say "Don't meet your heroes!" but on this particular day, the hero's light only shone more brightly.

When Ori thanked him for inspiring him throughout the years while the world and people told him to be more realistic, David simply said "Don't listen to them."

Brian's quest to outdo himself each anniversary led him to Ori for a unique piece of art. "Can you paint me, my wife, and our dog? And can you make it look like the cover of a comic book?"

Ori's process begins with questions, and he doesn't stop until he feels he truly knows who this is for, and what would move them. This time it revealed Hye-Soo's devotion to crossfit and their dog Galbi's comical belief in his humanity and refusal to be left out of anything (even a kiss).

Since this 60"x48" canvas will last a lifetime, Ori wanted Brian to look good too- so had Brian send shirtless photos, which required Ori to give an impromptu motivational speech to get Brian over his reluctance.



Ori helped plan the surprise, with covert shipping, and coaching on how to unveil a large masterpiece.

On the big day, Hye-Soo was stunned and over-joyed. Ori's guarantee that the shirtless photo would pay off (along with a little artistic license) held true as Hye-Soo stops to admiringly say "Damn babe! You've got a nice body!"



"Brian has confirmed that this very large and colorful painting has started hundreds of joyous conversations where this story gets told.

"People can't help but ask about it! It's so cool and big and colorful!"



Asking questions and discovering everyone's unique story is what allows each piece to be unique.

This piece also was requested as "Can you paint me, my wife, and our dog?"

Keith likes to play the guitar, Ofelia loves to dance, and Zelda loves nothing more than playing fetch.

The couple loves the Grateful Dead, and foraging for mushrooms (of all kinds), so their story takes place in a psychedelic mushroom forest.

Ori drew images so that Keith knew what angles to get reference material at. While the couple was on vacation on the beaches of Mexico, Keith snuck some video of his wife as she danced in shorts and a bikini on the beach.

When reviewing the footage, Ori noticed that for a split second it looked like Ofelia was performing a Curtsy, so he painted a dress - which Ofelia keeps asking him to make in the real world.

Again, joyous disbelief and confusion as to how this thing exists and got there.

There are hidden elements throughout such as Ofelia's favorite numbers (made of Mushroom spots), dancing bears, and dancing turtles.



Ori takes his art **very** personally. The creation, recipients' experience, and even his relationship with them. It is through making the art that he really gets to know people. If he doesn't gather enough information and understand who they are, then the painting will fall flat and not make a lasting impact.

Through this process, Ori gets to know his collectors at the deepest of levels, as many things are revealed that even their friends and families may not know. He also helps plan the delivery and reveal, so that they don't get just a painting, but rather, an experience, and a story that can be told for a lifetime.

Ori was contacted about this painting in November of 2022, and between then and late January 2024 when the painting was shipped off, he got to feel like he's not only known Samantha and Ryne forever, but like he's traveled the world with them, thanks to Ryne being so generous in his (over?)sharing!

Ryne shared everything from how they met, all the trips they've taken, and just about everything you could know about each of them. This not only inspired the painting, but even gave Ori relationship goals, as he'd love to have such a close and adventure-filled relationship with someone- while being so darn adorable together.

They went to the Swiss Alps, took a train through Zimbabwe and South Africa, rode a hot air balloon over tulip fields , explored the great pyramids of Egypt, went to Victoria Falls, partied at Dracula's Castle in Romania, dove with great white sharks, and so much more than can fit on this page. Since a painting can get too busy, Ori kept it to their favorite moments, and Samantha's love of the epic adventure film, The Mummy (1999)

Everyone has their Ori stories.... While there are only two paintings in existence that Ori sent off without the recipient seeing the final version before shipping - this being the second one - Ryne is the only one of Ori's collectors that has also been skydiving with Ori. He's invited Ori to drive go-karts on a frozen lake at the top of the Rocky Mountains, and they've got additional rare adventures planned together.

When you get to know someone so deeply through making their art, it's only logical to stay in touch, and creating even more amazing stories together.



Back in the day, Ori was a full time photographer. But even then he was creating artistic images such as this one from 2005.



In his Couch Surfing Ori days (which lasted 6 years), Ori held a few creative photography workshops around the country where he was showing photographers to think outside the box, and shoot/light in none-traditional ways... such as using hairspray as a flamethrower and lighting source for an image, and later adding a giant frog to complete the piece.


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Ori's memorial art is highly sought after.

His process tends to be to consume all of the media that he can find by and about them as he paints: movies, music, documentaries, interviews, and so on.

Part of the process is to try and understand and connect with the person, despite that they are gone.

Another part is to get their mannerisms and nuance, and also look for good reference material (still frames, photos, etc...).

This painting is 40"x70", or 54"x82" including the mat and frame. Many people have made offers on it, but despite many attractive offers, Ori has kept it because he loves it.

When an exotic substances distributor in Mexico insisted that he must have it, Ori refused again and again. But finally suggested that he'd make a custom version for this guy. One that matched that guy's own style and taste.

The guy is from Minneapolis, where Prince has a Star (on a wall), and likes to DJ, and is fascinated with exotic mollecules. So his 40"x70" painting is Ori's first painting that's made to glow under a blacklight, has Prince's Star on it, as well as the mollecule that Prince overdosed on. It has a different large frame, and has LED Backlighting.

The piece is at the center of that gentleman's treatment facility, which has become a bit of an Ori Bengal gallery, currently with over 20 pieces.





How did Ori meet Molly?  In the usual way, of course!

They were both at the launch party for the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket that was going to take Ori's art to the moon on the very first successful commercial moon landing in all of human history. Despite being in a few of the same group conversations, the two did not speak until at the end of the night Molly asked "Excuse me, can you help me?"

Ori energetically replied, "Yes, of course! Let's do this!"

Molly, slightly confused, said "But you don't even know what I need help with."

"But you want help, no?  Then I'm here to help!"

Molly led Ori outside and showed him how her car got parked in by two other cars, and she has an early morning meeting, but the party is in full swing, and she has no idea how to find out who owns these cars.

Ori beamed, "piece of cake!" and led her back into the house.  He turned off the bluetooth speaker, but there were still 60 people speaking at full blast, so Ori loudly cleared his throat, and kept on doing that until he had everyone's attention. "Hey, sorry, don't mean to interrupt.  Just thought you should know-- the person with the red Tesla and the person with the white Kia Carnival.... you're being towed, I think you can still stop the dude. Everyone else, enjoy the party."

Sure enough.... two people went running outside, and were quite happy to move their cars for Molly, relieved that they were not in fact towed.  Molly's back window was completely covered in condensation, and she tried to start using her hands to try and wipe it off of her window.  Ori just smiled, took his shirt off, and wiped her rear window clean.  "Have a great meeting!"

Molly was looking back in disbelief, and even said "Who solves problems that way???" -- Clearly, Ori does.

When they spoke on the phone a few days later, Molly revealed that she works at a hologram company, and that everything that she has done, and everything that she will ever do, is towards the end goal of creating small palm-sized holograms, like Obi-Wan-Kenobi.

Ori was excited to hear that she works at a Hologram companies, because he grew up on Sci-Fi, and holograms sound friggin awesome. He asked for the specs for their holographic hardware, and they set up a meeting for 2 days later with one of Molly's engineers.

Ori spent the rest of the weekend making his first hologram, and also surprising Molly with this image that shows her having achieved her dream of creating Obi-Wan-Kenobi type holograms.



This painting was made for the Raiden Foundation to auction off for Rare Disease day. They do not get much help, since the disease they are working to cure, UBA5 Disease, only has around 30 known cases worldwide.







Ori's artwork has been distributed to British Parliment!  When a prominent NFT Engineer was invited to come to the House of Lords and explain to Parliment and the press about Blockchain technology, Ori created the art that was minted as a Physical NFT- a trading card in a collector's case that is paired with a digital twin on the blockchain. Everyone was blown away by the art and the tech.








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Christoph looked up all of the local artists he could find in Denver, Colorado. None felt like they could deliver the impact that he wanted to leave on his wife for their anniversary. But he had a local friend that knew Ori. He suggested that despite not being local, he thinks he knows the right artist to reach out to. Ori and Christoph were connected, and they quickly hit it off, agreeing on fantasy art influences, on what the image should be, and on deadlines and price.

The premise of the piece was to show Melinda's journey into her independence, and building her own business as an intuitive and medium.

They worked on this 60x40 for 4 months, and the unveiling was scheduled to take place on Christoph's birthday, in Las Vegas (where Ori was supposed to already be living.... Except because of having left town to go complete the Shatner piece, he not only didn't have a place yet, but was not even in the same state). Ori had to trade cars with his buddy so that he could transport this large piece safely.

He made it to the Venetian Hotel where Christoph had added him to the room so that he could get the key and sneak in while Christoph and Melinda were out and about. Ori and his dog set up, texted Christoph that they are ready, and to cough before he opens the door.

The couple walked in to their hotel suite to find a random stranger waiting in their room. Ori and Christoph had worked on the painting, and had planned in detail when the surprise would be, and how to sneak Ori into the suite... Nobody had actually thought of what to say once everyone was in the same place, but when you're a stranger in someone's suite, awkward silence can turn into terror for the surprised, so Ori warmly greeted the couple, gave hugs, wished Christoph a happy birthday, and led them towards the large painting, explaining to Melinda that he's an artist that was commissioned to surprise her.

Ori was filming. Christoph was filming. Ori pulled the velvet fabric off of the canvas, and Melinda's jaw dropped.

Every objective that Ori and Christoph had set, they had accomplished with flying colors.

Melinda stared at the piece for 45 minutes straight, and only stopped because they had dinner reservations. She said "Wow" over two dozen times. She mentioned a few times how she's smiling so much that her cheeks hurt, how this is exquisite, how beautiful the piece is.

"Outstanding is an understatement!" and "I don't know how you'll ever top this!" (to which Ori replied that that is a serious concern that he warns people about. But that they do have his phone number if they need to top it again.)

Christoph was beaming and said he's never seen his wife like this (speechless), and that he could not believe how much more amazing it is in person than over the digital pictures that he's been looking at throughout the painting/approval process.

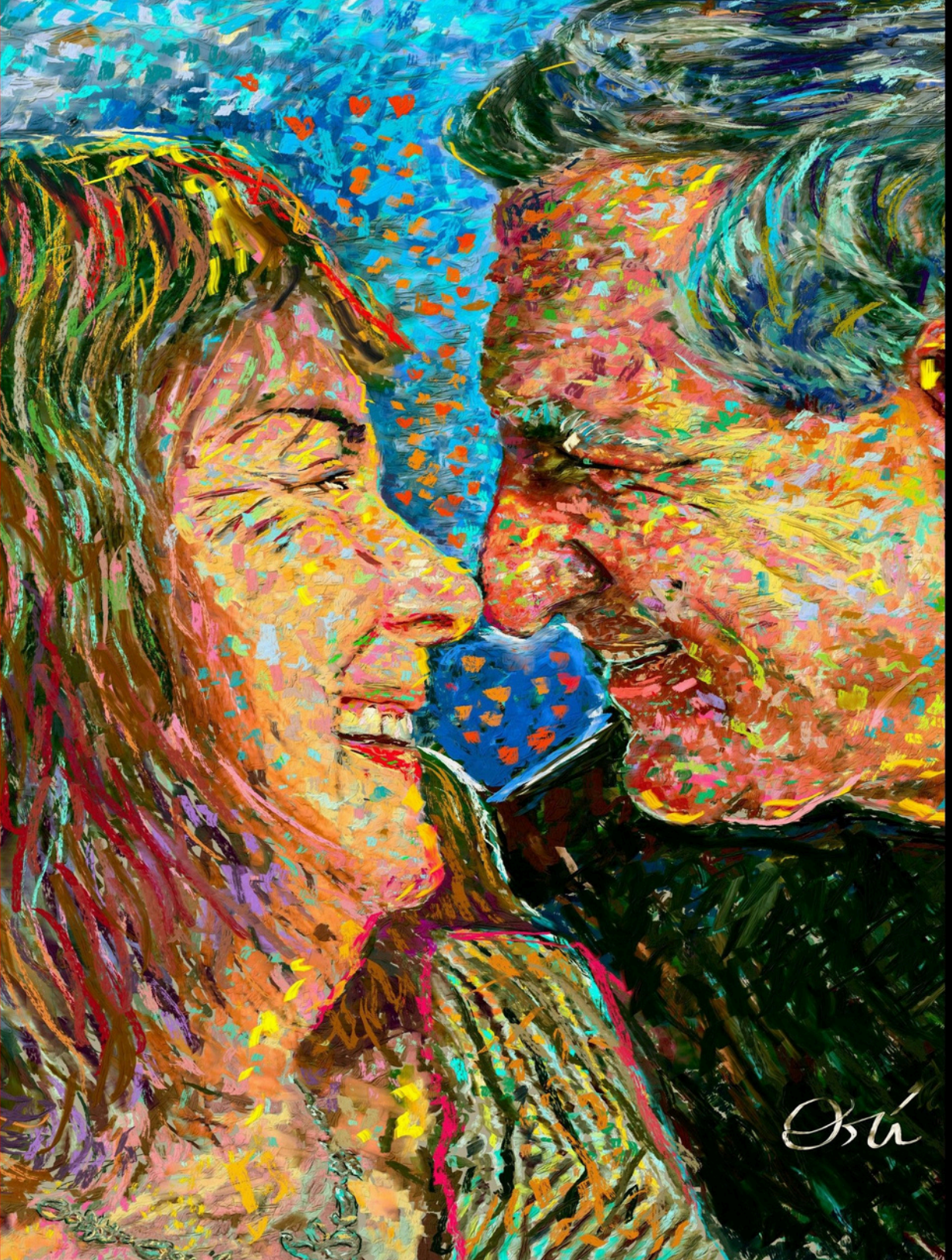
When asked about his experience in making the painting, he said "I made a friend in the experience." The three of them went out for Sushi and then watched Foreigner perform live. It was Sasha(Ori's dog)'s first concert.

After Foreigner, Ori walked Sasha. When he returned to the suite, Melinda was already seated in front of the painting, staring at it some more for the rest of the night. The next day she Facetimed each member of her family, and gave them a tour of every detail of her painting.



One benefit of being Ori's BFF is the never ending portraits that evolve as you do.





Aside from his eccentric appearance and strange motivations, Ori is always doing things that most people constantly remind him is not healthy, or is dangerous.

For example, playing Bull Poker, giving shrooms to UFC cage fighters, getting stuck in trees while skydiving, and the most common of course:  having no sleep schedule.

His daily art regiment consisted of one rule "no art, no sleep." There was not a set time that the art had to be done by, it just had to be done before he went to sleep, so there were many days when Ori did not get to sleep until 4PM. He'd grab an hour or two of sleep, and then get up and do it all again.

Ori's parents lead the group that likes to remind him of what is unhealthy (most everything he does), and these days he does try to make better choices so that they have less to worry about in their older years.

When they came for a visit at the end of Ori's 6th year, they made sure to let him know that it's not healthy working all night, and then sleeping in the daytime. But that was until he started working on their painting. At that point, silence.

This was the last painting of year 6, and "Can you paint me like you painted your parents?" is the most common style request (right after "Paint me like one of your French girls!", of course).





Ori adopted a magical dog named Sasha. A few months later he discovered that he was given a pregnant dog, and had to deliver 5 puppies into the world. A local shelter helped him with supplies and finding them good homes. Ori painted these Cowboy Dogs (and 8 more) as a calendar the shelter can sell to fundraise.







This little fellow is from Year 1 of daily art.

Despite having painted a cleaner, more professional version of this as his technique improved, this early one continues to be a fan favorite.

Some say it's the movement, others say it's the joy. But this one is more beloved than the improved versions.

When he started this journey Ori would get have less "hits" (very beloved by many). The more time and effort he invested in his craft, the more hits there seemed to be. They were good without the "Got lucky on that one!"

It's true what they say, the harder you work, the more luck you have.

This was Ori's first painting in Scottland. His collector, Phil, had bought it for his wife when she got cancer. She was following Ori's journey, and it gave her hope.

Phil purchased the piece to encourage her on her own journey, and she did eventually go into remission (but Ori makes no claims that his painting was responsible).





Ori spent 4 years living in Mexico, so of course had to create some ORIginal works for Dia De Los Muertos



JD had been following Ori online for years, and had inquired about a painting once or twice, but when he saw that Ori got another magazine cover, and was working with Scott Page of Pink Floyd he told Ori that "I better commission you now before you're too successful for me to afford."

The first question is usually "What would you like me to paint?" and JD mentioned his love of newly forming galaxies: swirling stars, bright light emerging.... and perhaps a silhouette in the middle playing a guitar... to represent his fiancée whose birthday it was the next day.

With short notice, Ori skipped sleeping, and worked on the painting for the next 30 hours, and got them a digital piece to see so that Em got to receive it on her birthday.

JD and Em thought it was perfect, and one of the most beautiful things they've seen, and they wanted to know when they would receive it.

Ori argued that there's no way this is complete. This was not an inexpensive gift, and Ori explained that they may be excited at where the painting currently is.... but that he knows where the painting can go, and he worked on it for a few more months.

But after more than a decade of making none-stop art, this was the first time that Ori gave the collector the choice: see every step, and sign off (this is the usual approach), OR... See no progressions, and only see the final at the unveiling.

JD chose the latter, and when Ori drove into town to do the unveiling, there were tears of joy, and everyone was blown away.



JD said that that he recommends to anyone that is going to commission Ori to take the surprise approach, and only see the painting at unveiling.

He then said that if he had a time machine, and now having seen what Ori had created, could go back in time to the version of him that said that Ori's concept version was complete, that he would smack that version of himself upside the head.









Ori was invited to Live Paint at a festival.  The theme happened to be "Mushrooms" so he made a series of art to gift the attendees. He had leftovers, and now uses them as an ice breaker at conferences:

"Hey.... You like Shrooms??"

Two things that Ori excels at even more than art are making puns and making things awkward.



Not every story is long. One client had a large frame, and has been to gallery after gallery searching for the perfect lion painting to place in said frame. After tiring of the search, he reached out to Ori who requested pictures of the frame as well as all the furniture in the room, and then created the painting in a style and color theme that perfectly matches the rest of the room.



Scott Page and Ori became friends through some crazy happenstance.

Ori was invited to live paint at some VIP events in Miami's Art Basel. He snuck away to meet a friend, and through a series of strange and random occurrences, he found himself being introduced to Scott.

"This is Ori Bengal - he is a world class artist that is doing some revolutionary things in the art space and NFT space. This is Scott Page, he played with Toto, SuperTramp, and Pink Floyd."

Through his experience in marketing, comedy, public speaking, and 6 years of Couch Surfing, Ori was pretty good at reading none-verbal communications, and could see that Scott was likely burnt out on meeting people, or had seen his share of art for the night.

He skipped the small talk and said "Hey Scott, do you like cool art?"

Scott said yes, and Ori could tell he was just being polite, but pushed through some people, and ran to the wall where his large (18"x24") and heavy portfolio was leaning. He grabbed it and ran back to Scott who had that "Oh shit, what did I get myself into?" look on his face.

He opened the portfolio and held it up for Scott, whose face instantly morphed into a look of surprise.

"Oh wow! You can really draw!" - he was hooked. He turned a page "Oh shit, you're really good! Congrats!" - there was another compliment or two, and then he had to go.

Ori was beaming, because the whole thing happened very fast, and seemed surreal. He spent so many hours listening to Pink Floyd, and getting to bring some joy to one of its members with his art seemed like a dream. He confirmed with a friend that that all happened, and it did.

The next day Ori called the editor (of a magazine) he met the previous day.

"Remember how we were talking about serendipity?" and proceeded to tell the story of his surreal experience meeting Scott.

The guy replied "I can top that. Guess who I am interviewing in 20 minutes? Scott Page of Pink Floyd... and I'm pretty sure he'll remember you!"

"Yes... People generally need a few decades of therapy to forget me."

Since they wanted Ori to do their cover, and they were about to interview Scott, Ori suggested that they make the cover that he paint be of Scott. This is the painting that Ori created for the cover. Scott is a leader in the NFT space, and Ori made many variations on this piece to partner with Scott on an NFT series. Scott has also had an action figure made based on Ori's artwork.

But the conversations are always fascinating. They both have some crazy stories, and are always looking to push themselves forward.



Most people have never, and will never receive a custom work of art, so he firmly believes that the occasion should never be wasted.

Sure, you can just receive a painting, and be amazed by the quality and how personal it is. But every painting is an opportunity to create an experience and a memory for someone. After all, you can't even spell "Memories" without ori!

This artwork was not intended to look like traditional art, but rather more of a professional photo shoot. The recipient, Perry, is a massive fan of Willie Nelson and Ori once heard a decade prior that Perry has a dream of having Willie play at his birthday party.

Ori made the artwork, framed it, and recruited help to do the fancy giftbox with wrapping and ribbon. He entered Perry's conference carrying this massive box, and everyone (after singing Justin Timberlake's "Dick In a Box") asked what's in the box for the duration of the event.

At the end of the conference, Ori got to present, and had Perry go on stage and open the box. The second he saw what was inside, he choked up, started crying, and tearfully said "Asshole!" and threw some of the foam inserts at Ori, for making him cry on stage in front of 500 people.

He then explained to the audience that he's a huge Willie fan, and Ori loudly exclaimed "Yup! He loves a huge Willie!"

Tears were replaced with laughter, hugs were exchanged, and a new memory was created not just for Perry, but for the entire audience as well.




DREW LEAGUE
EST. '73
Los Angeles






DREW LEAGUE
EST. '73
Los Angeles

Despite being more than 5 times past that "10,000 hours to achieve mastery", Ori still finds it strange that people love whatever he sends, and do not even ask for any changes. Yes, this is the point of constant practice and training, but there's still an entire lifetime of doubt and so the "Wow! I can't believe how awesome this is!" still makes him smile.

A celebrity jeweler and watchmaker has been working with Ori since January of 2023, barely provides Ori with any instructions, and is always blown away by what Ori delivers.

Ori was first inspired to dream of making art when he was a young child in Israel, and would stare at the awe-inspiring sci-fi book covers in his father's book collection. To this day he still loves sci-fi and fantasy art, and strives to do more of it.

This client is a dream come true for Ori, since he gets to create work that they both truly love, as the client lets Ori pursue his sci-fi and fantasy goals and dreams, and do good in the world.

The client designed the Championship Rings for The Drew League, and needed some NFTs to go with them. Ori chose to bring the rings to life by creating basketball-playing futuristic robots that are inspired by the rings' designs and materials. The robots are made of gold and silver and pave' black diamonds, white diamonds, and rubies.

The project is still being worked on, but has allowed Ori to not only pursue his Sci-fi whims, but even delve into animation.



One night, scrolling Facebook, Ori saw that one of his friends' daughter had passed away at 17 years old. There were projects to be done, but instead Ori reached out to Ben and offered to make a painting in time for the funeral. He explained that he understood if Ben has a lot on this mind / plate, and so he would not need much... Just a sentence or two about Kiera: What's she into? How would she want to be remembered? And... please send me 10-20 photos of her for reference.

Ben said "She called herself 'The Alpha She-Wolf' - even had some furry wolf ears she'd wear, and a wolf-tail. And she liked Minecraft.

That was all that Ori needed - the girl would be riding a large wolf through a minecraft forest. There would be other wolves following, since she's the alpha.

For the next few days, Ori worked on this around the clock, and messaged Ben with the occasional question such as outfit choices (leather jacket, because that made her look like the woman she was just starting to turn into), and if she had any hobbies or interest that perhaps had something in her hand (singing).

As always Ori interspersed every communication with jokes, and puns, and Ben laughed, and even started cracking a few jokes and puns of his own... Though, he apologized for it.

Ori pointed out that he's likely the only guy that's got the courage to make a grieving parent laugh.... To bring laughter to someone that needs it the most.

The painting was done in time, and brought tears to the entire family, and a great image to remember her by. The thing that was commented on the most (other than the likeness) was the joy that was captured.... Which is the best way to remember someone.

Ori let his clients know what happened, and why he may be slightly delayed on their projects, he slept for 2 days, and then back to the morning to night creation of art.



“How do you make it so perfect?” was Ori’s niece’s reply as she stared at her birthday present.

Ori started a tradition a few years back where he finds out Talia wants to be when she grows up, and then he paints her as having already accomplished that, so there are paintings of her as a Soccer player, a ballerina, and the latest, a Saxophone player.

“But do you know what everything in the painting is?” he replied.

She was able to name each of the Pokemon, and Totoro. But she was unaware that the motorcycle in the image is the make and model that the protagonist in the book series she is very much into at the moment is driving.

She also did not realize that in the painting she is wearing a British private school uniform, just like the characters in the graphic novel series that she has been passionate about.

Ori specializes in creating art that not only is beautiful, but rather is biographical as well- capturing the accomplishments, interests, and hopes and dreams of a person (or organization).

While the composition and execution of a piece are important, Ori considers the research and ideation portion of his process to be the most important, as that is what makes his art be so much more than just a pretty picture.  It is what creates such emotional impact, and turns his works into treasured prized posessions.





Slater used to DJ and organize raves around the world, but after going through his own battles with sobriety, chose to focus on helping others with theirs.

Slater's home is a full blown gallery of Ori's works. It's not just a home, it's also a rehab and detox center, so there are always people coming through and enjoying the art.  Other than the art, they get to enjoy the company of Keta the Shaman Dog, and Slater's DJ sets.

The center is located in Baja California, Mexico, just south of Rosarito Beach. So Slater wanted the painting to take place there (The Rosarito Beach Hotel, which is a local landmark), and he wanted a creative way to show that after all that he and Keta have been through together, they are best buds to the very end.

All the details were added with Slater in mind. The specific fashions and brands that he likes, his hairstyle, the money, and there are even dozens of things hidden in the painting that you won't find unless you know to look for them.

Watching a nuclear explosion may not be everyone's cup of tea... but that's the beautiful thing about art.... You can get a painting that is as unique as you are.

The painting is 70"x40" (plus frame) and is the centerpiece of Slater's studio- lit by blacklights, and dominating the wall behind the DJ Booth.

Over the years Slater not only had Ori create many custom paintings, but even his company logos, thank you cards, stickers, and shirts.

The painting of Keta DJing was actually a gift from Ori to Slater, as there was a painting from a local artist that Ori just did not feel fit the vibe of the upstairs living room, and Ori would not let this stand.






COURAGE

The Del Mar Fair is one of the largest fairs, and has one of the best reputations when it comes to art exhibitions at a fair, so Ori was delighted to get invited to exhibit.

The theme was Ozsome - a play on The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.

Ori's obsession with doing everything in a totally unique way, and generally doing it in a playful and mischievous way led to the Cowardly Lion with a Courage Tattoo, and the Wicked Witch being a stripper, using her broom as the pole... Flying monkeys trying to slip her some Benjamins.

Exhibiting was fun, but sitting in one place for a day or two is not Ori's forte' - so he has not exhibited at a fair since.



Mike met Ori at a festival. They bonded over extremely lengthy jokes, and he messaged Ori to see if he could create a gift for a musician that will be traveling by. Ori looked up the musician and was instantly on-board.

This kid, Taj Farrant, placed 2nd on Australia's Got Talent - when he was 10 years old! And he is now 14 years old, and already has 2 #1 songs on the Billboard Charts.

Such mastery is rare at any age, let alone at such a young age, and Ori wanted to do what he could to help fan the flames.

Mike wanted Taj playing the guitar while his influences look down from heaven in approval.

Ori loved it, but wanted to tell a bigger story. He kept asking questions, and Mike ( being a super-fan) had all the answers and stories.

Taj's Dad had a 1964 Gibson Flying V with a woodgrain finish that he wanted to pass onto his son, but he needed to sell it in order to fund their touring.

A fan brought a matching guitar for Taj to sign at a show. Taj played it on stage, and went to return it after the show, and they told him that they could never play it like that - keep it.

Mike said that when interviewed about favorite guitar, Taj doesn't mention that one, but Ori insisted that's the guitar to use, as that honors his dad, and tells the story of a father's sacrifice for a child's dreams.

The X's and stage are a nod to Australia's got talent.

Mike wanted to have about 5 of Taj's influences in the painting, but Ori pointed out that it would confuse the painting, making it too busy to know what the subject is.

The lightning bolts are from AC/DC, as their concert when Taj was 6 is what made him know that guitar is what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. Again, for anyone looking, this is a cool picture. But for those who know Taj and his story, it's so much more.




2020





"Is there anything he's always wanted, but never got to do?  Maybe a certain kind of car?  Maybe getting a pilot's license?"
"No, he's not materialistic like that. Maybe having a chat with his sci-fi writing heros?"

Turns out that those heros are quite dead, so Ori was one of the few people who could make this birthday wish come true.

Despite that there are less than 2 handfulls of photos of Robert Jordan. But Ori brought Jordan and Asimov back to life for these very important chats.

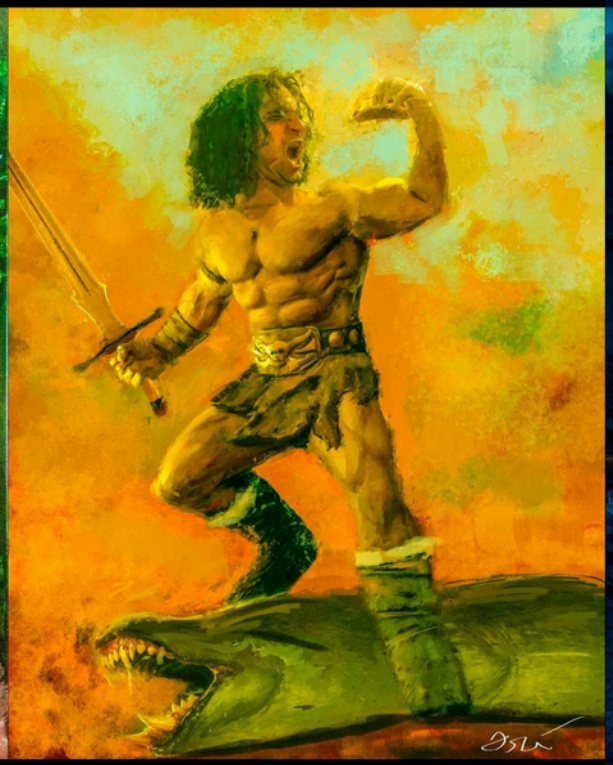










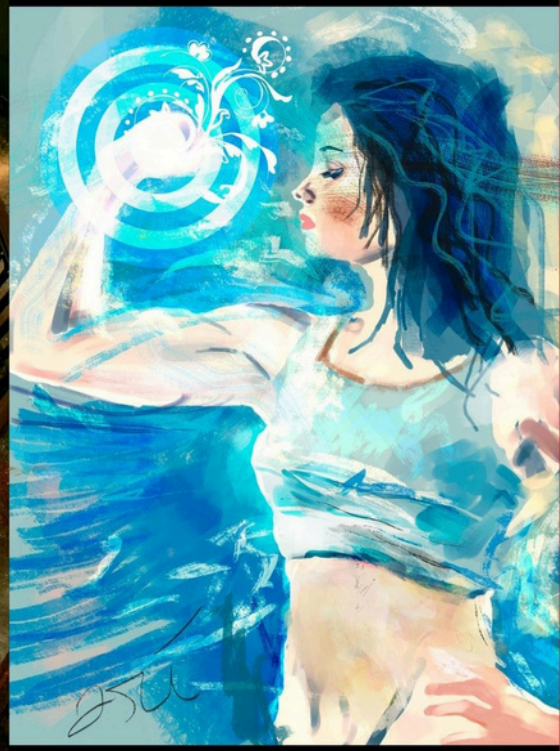




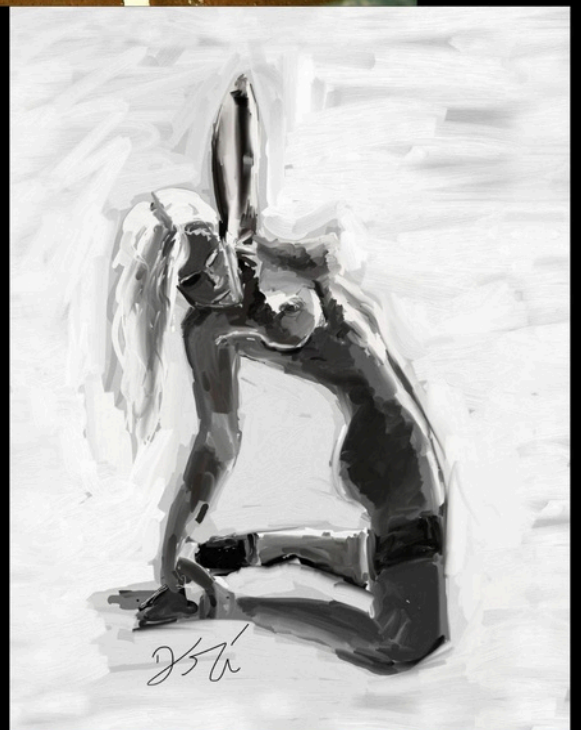


























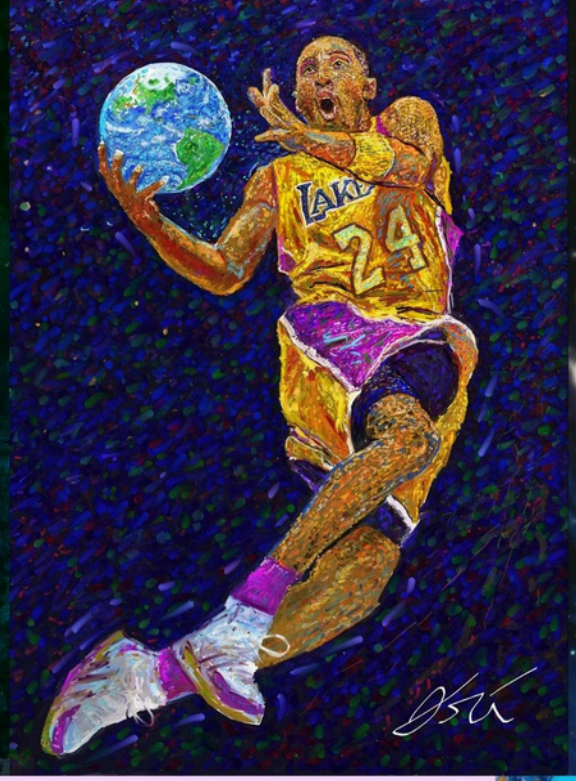




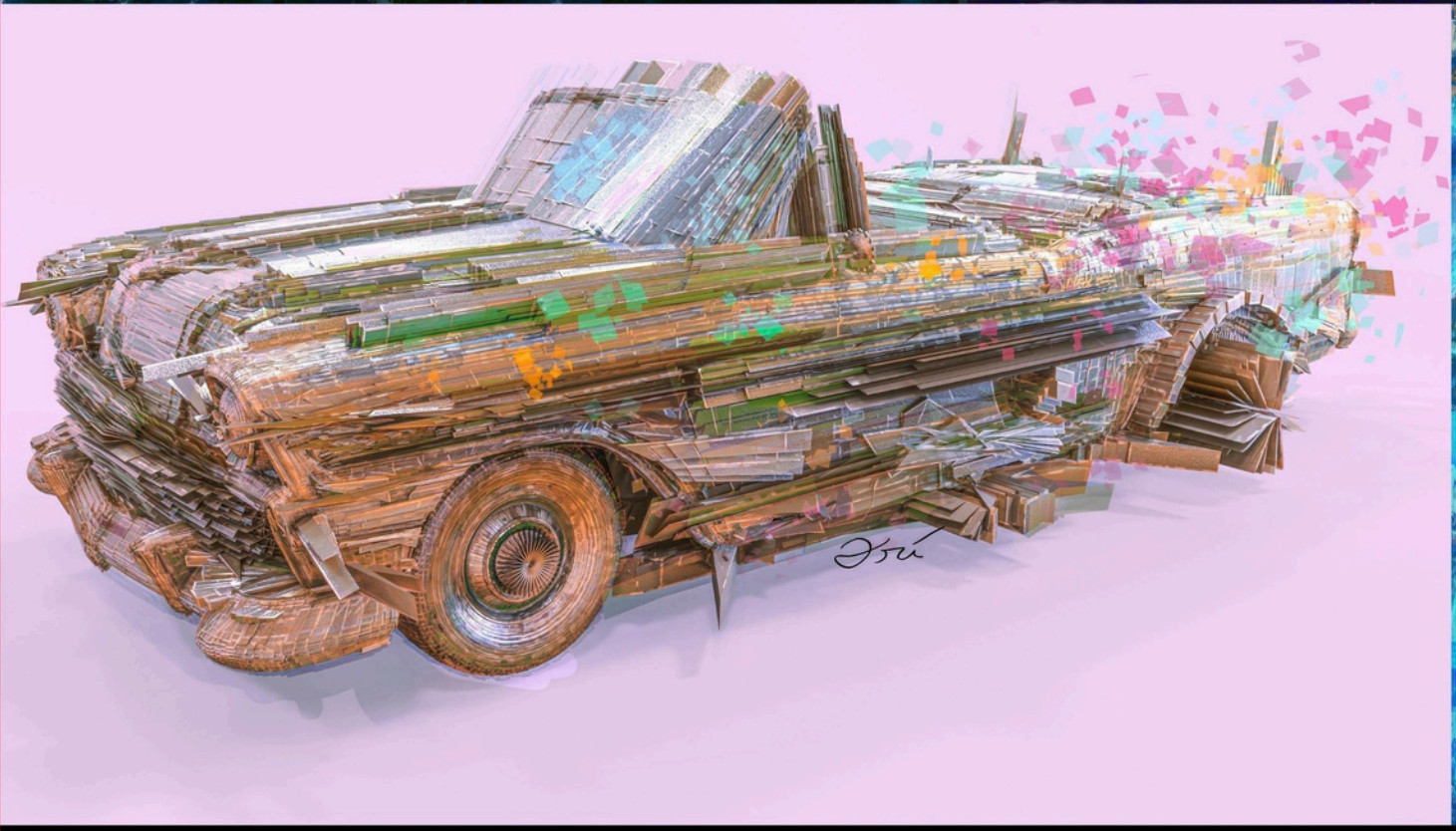


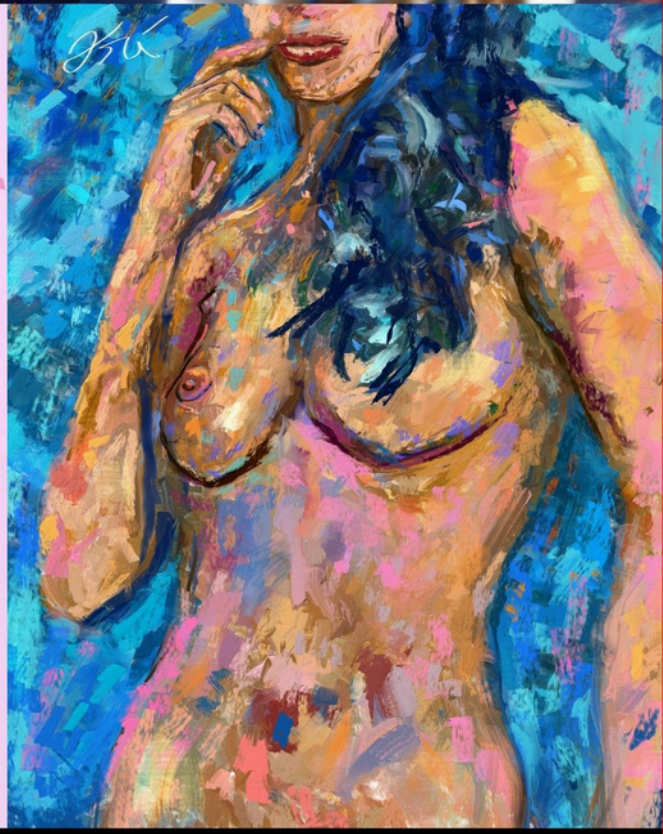


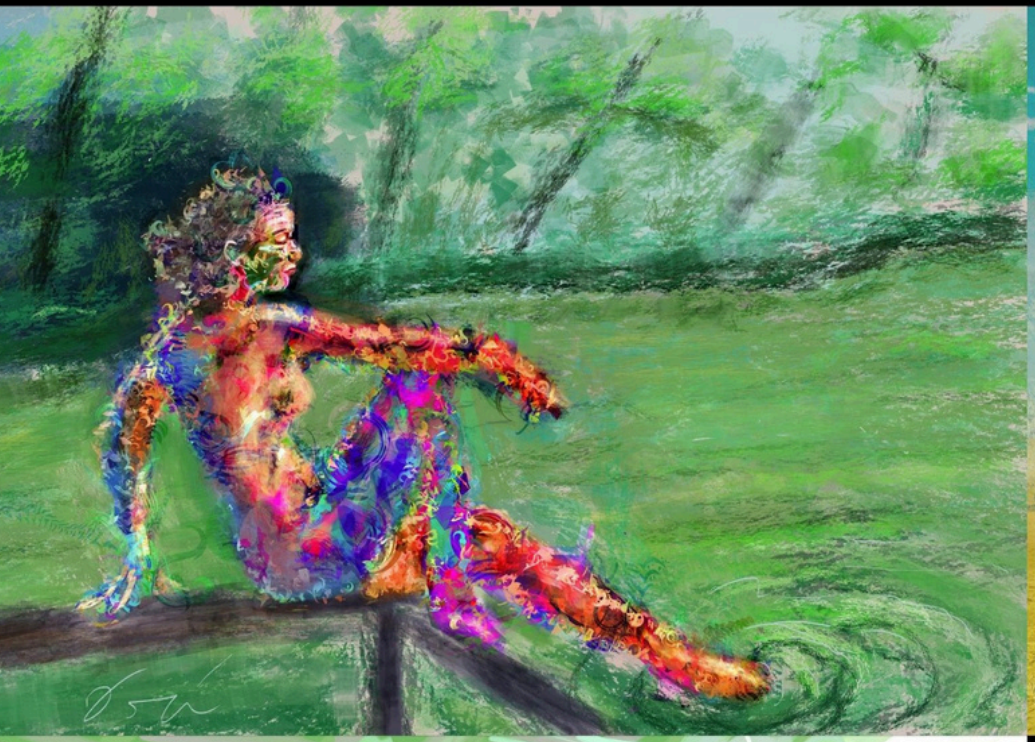



LAKE
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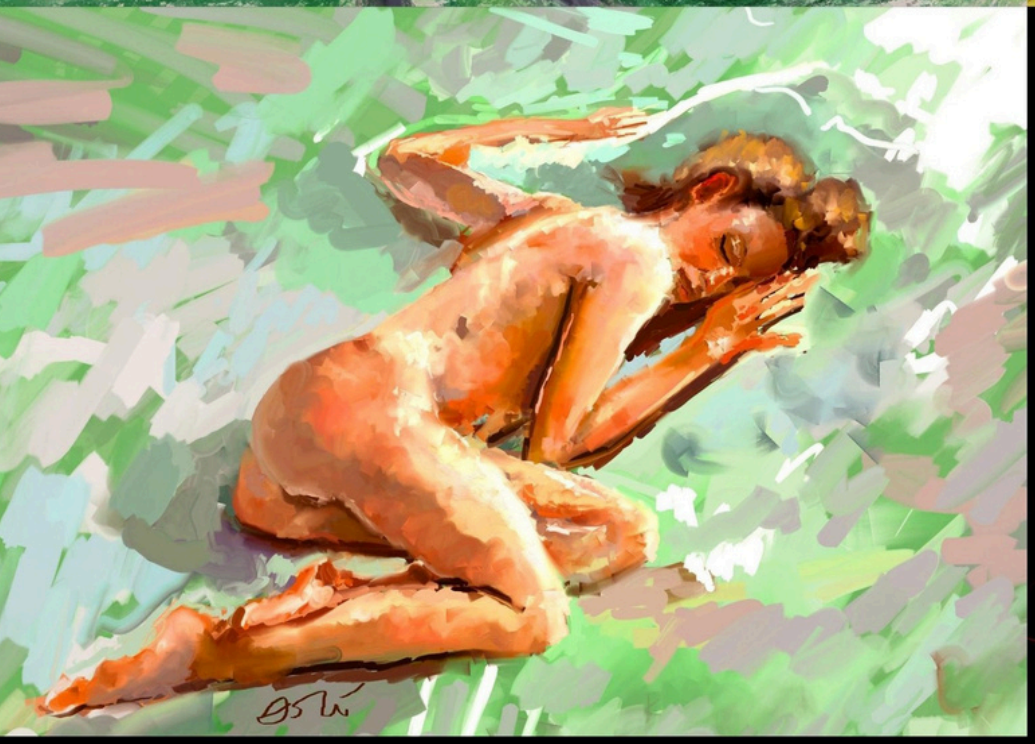














So, what about YOU?

What's YOUR story?

Whether you want to honor one of your heros or loved ones with a painting of their life, or create legacy with your own...

Or perhaps you have a beloved pet with a lot of personality that deserves to be immortalized, or you're looking to fundraise at a gala....

Or you need an album cover for your band, or maybe you've got some blank wall space that needs something magical...

Reach out to Ori







# The Metamorphosis of an Artist



Contact Ori:

Ori Bengal has spent a lifetime discovering that he is an artist, and how that changed him, and who he is to the world. This book shares many of his best works of art, along with the most touching stories, and some of the insights gleaned from them.