

## **AVRAHAM VOFSI**

b. 1989, Australia | Aliyah 2023

avrahamvofsi.com

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# **Education**

2015 Bachelor of Illustration, Melbourne Polytechnic, Melbourne, Australia

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# **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2023 B'Aretz: Portrait of a Land, East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation, Melbourne, Australia
  - 2022 Essential: Portraits of Front-line Workers, Off The Kerb Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
  - 2019 Djapwurrung Heritage Embassy, Melbourne, Australia
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# **Group Exhibitions**

- 2024 No Words, Jerusalem Biennale, Jerusalem, Israel | Curator: Rami Ozeri
  - 2024 Will Their Voice Be Heard, Galerie Waltman, Paris, France | Curator: Oliver Waltman
  - 2024 Free Space, Harmony Center, Jerusalem, Israel | Curator: Marina Gutgarts
  - 2024 Forever & Eternity, Ari'el Performing Arts Center, Ari'el, Israel | Curator: Ophra Shoshtari
  - 2022 Antipodes, Beinart Gallery, Melbourne, Australia | Curator: Jon Beinart
  - 2022 Spring Days, Off The Kerb Gallery, Melbourne, Australia | Curator: Shini Pararajashingham
  - 2017 Dark Honey, Off The Kerb Gallery, Melbourne, Australia | Curator: Shini Pararajashingham
  - 2016 Astronaut Alley, The Old Bar, Melbourne, Australia | Curator: Avraham Vofsi
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# **Art Prizes**

- 2022 Archibald Portrait Prize, Finalist, Sydney, Australia
  - 2022 Darling Portrait Prize, Finalist, Canberra, Australia
  - 2022 Maldon Portrait Prize, Finalist, Maldon, Australia
  - 2020 Southern Buoy Portrait Prize, Finalist, Melbourne, Australia
  - 2020 Royal Queensland Art Society Salon de Refusés, Exhibited, Brisbane, Australia
  - 2018 Fortyfive Downstairs Emerging Artist Award, Shortlist, Melbourne, Australia
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# **Residencies**

- 2019 Redbubble Artist Residency, Melbourne, Australia
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# **Grants**

2022 City of Yarra Small Projects Grant, Melbourne, Australia

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## Guest Speaking & Lectures

2024 HaAliyah: Visions of the Rise, Jewish Museum of Florida, Miami, USA  
2024 Artist Schmooze, Havurah, New York, USA  
2024 HaAliyah: Visions of the Rise, Private Function, Melbourne, Australia; Pardes Chana, Israel; Los Angeles, USA  
2024 Technion's 100 Year Celebration Gala, Technion Australia, Melbourne & Sydney, Australia  
2024 Artists on Artists, Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne, Australia  
2023 *What is Jewish Art?*, Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne, Australia

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## Media and Coverage

2024 [The Aliyah Art of Avraham Vofsi](#), The Jewish Independent  
2024 [No Words: Soldiers, Immigrants, Sabra Artists Exhibit Together in Jerusalem](#), Times of Israel  
2024 [Avi Vofsi: Embracing Jewish Identity Through Art](#), Jerusalem Post  
2024 [Avraham Vofsi: Painter of Modern Jewish Life](#), Iton News  
2024 [A Journey of Discovery Through Classical Oil Paintings](#), Orange Socks Podcast,  
2023 [Podcast Against Antisemitism, S4 E14 'Isolated' with Avraham Vofsi](#), Campaign Against Antisemitism  
2023 *Who The Bloody Hell Are We?*, SBS OnDemand  
2023 *Bohemian Rhapsody* Weekly Magazine  
2022 [Portrait](#), Magazine of Australian & International Portraiture, Summer 2022/23,  
2022 [Reclaiming Our Story: The Pursuit of Jewish Pride](#), by Ben M. Freeman  
2022 [Masa Careers Have No Limits for This Australian Artist](#), J-Wire, Sydney, Australia  
2019 *Non-Compliant Magazine*, Issue 2,

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## Collections

Jewish Museum of Australia; Jewish Museum of Florida; State Library of Victoria; Private collections in Australia, USA, UK; PMI Victorian History Library

# Artist Statement and Biography

**Avraham Vofsi (b. 1989, Australia)** is an Israel-based Jewish artist working in classical oil painting. Born in Melbourne to American parents and raised as a Jew in a non-Jewish city, Vofsi comes from a long line of immigrants. His artistic journey was shaped early by a deep connection to Indigenous Australian activists, whose relationship to land and heritage inspired him to explore his own. That path led him to Israel, where he now lives and paints.

Vofsi creates a new visual language for modern Jewish expression using the tools of classical European oil painting. His work is part of the emerging movement of Israeli realism and the nascent Hebrew art movement. Through narrative figuration and observational realism, he explores Jewish history, identity, and survival. His portraits, landscapes, and still lifes reflect a desire to insert Jewish presence into an artistic tradition that has long excluded or exoticised it. His work reclaims this tradition as a de-fetishised, de-colonised space for Jewish stories to unfold.

Vofsi completed a Bachelor of Illustration at Melbourne Polytechnic but is primarily self-taught. His work has been shown at institutions including the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the National Portrait Gallery of Australia, the Jewish Museum of Florida, the State Library of Victoria, and the Jewish Museum of Australia. In 2022, he was a finalist for the Archibald Prize for his portrait of John Safran as David and Goliath.

His most recent solo exhibition, *HaAliyah* (2024), responded to the ongoing war and rising global antisemitism. Through intimate, story-rich works based on Israelis and Diaspora Jews affected by recent events, he offers a visual record of Jewish perseverance and presence. Using traditional techniques to reflect contemporary truths, his art anchors the personal in the historical, and the historical in paint.