

Together

CHAPTER 2 | RECONCILIATION

THE JOURNAL

Where
Medicine
Meets Art

Healing
Humanity
Togetherness
Reconciliation

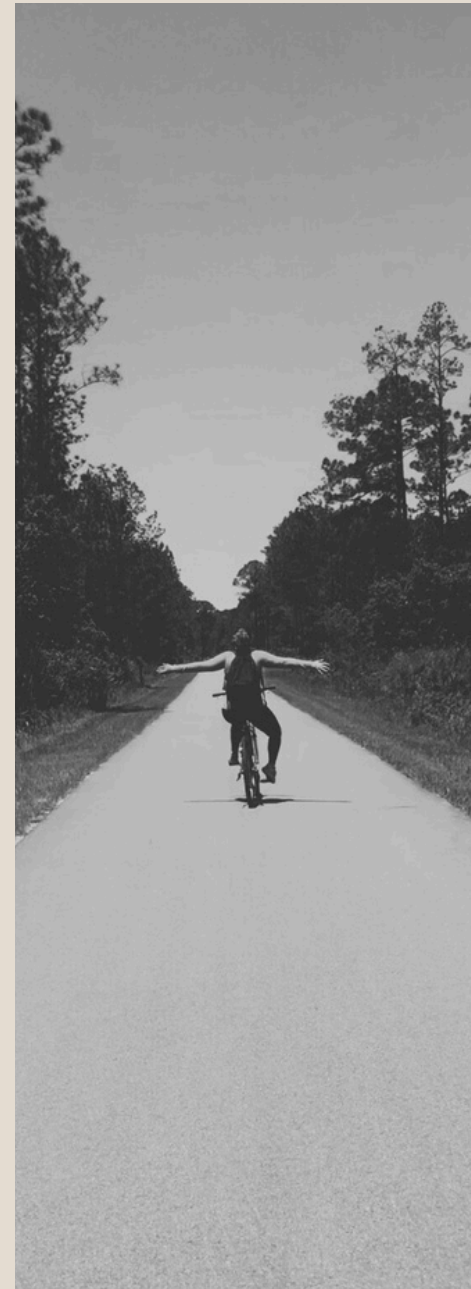


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**“RECONCILIATION IS NOT ONLY
WHEN WE COME TOGETHER, BUT
WHEN WE COME TOGETHER &
SHINE TO THE WORLD.”**

Letter from our Co-Founder

When is it too early for reconciliation? When too much has happened, & continues to happen, when should anything be restored? When can we focus on the immediate & distant futures? Make them compatible, make them forgiving, make them appreciate the moments we have, make them full of laughter, family, loved ones. When can we even imagine reconciliation under the darkest clouds & coldest rains?

I think it is never too early to reconcile. The moment something begins to be pulled apart is already the moment that we can start fighting until our last strength to bring it back together, to reconcile the forces spreading everything apart. To start a new force. Together we all have our different perspectives, our different experiences, our different tragedies, the differences in magnitude of destruction, pain, & suffering. We have all these differences extending to every corner of possibility. Yet what is the same is our humanity, our goals to cherish & preserve human life, to shine & to perceive determined to have our children with endless smiles.

Together we are honored to have these artists. All different. Representing all corners of the World, all corners of life experience the good & the bad. We bring these differences Together to share their absolute talent & beauty to the World as one. Our reconciliation started a minute, a month, a year, a century ago. We are humbled to bring you, Together, something beautiful that shines a light in the right direction.

Dr. Adam Lee Goldstein
Co-Founder, Operating Together

Reconciliation

Reconciliation is a word that resonates deeply across cultures and experiences, carrying many meanings depending on the context. For some, it signifies the resolution of conflicts in times of war, while for others, it represents the healing of personal rifts between loved ones. Whether on a global scale or within our closest relationships, reconciliation is essential to our shared humanity, even when we feel unprepared for it. It is through reconciling and coming together that we find the strength to remain united and be the best person we can each be. We asked individuals from all walks of life what reconciliation means to them, and here is what they had to share...

“In essence, reconciliation is about embracing the duality of existence—where memories and fantasies coexist, creating a rich tapestry of emotions and narratives. It’s a reminder that healing and understanding can emerge from the interplay of diverse influences, ultimately enriching my artistic expression. Through this lens, my art becomes a vessel for dialogue and connection, inviting viewers to reflect on their own journeys of reconciliation.”

-Abdul Warish-

Pages 9-11

"Reconciliation calls us to heal together, to recognize one another's pain, and to move forward with resilience. It's not an easy path, but in mending what was once broken, we create a shared beauty from what was once scarred."

-Anonymous-

“Reconciliation is defined by responsibility and commitment. We must understand the historic truths and our own personal truths, recognizing that multiple truths can exist. Then, with this knowledge in mind, we must take responsibility for past wrongs, and commit to healing and rebuilding.”

-Joseph Nowacki-

Pages 12 & 13

“Reconciliation is recognizing past wrongs, addressing differences collaboratively, and seeking common ground to progress, without needing full agreement on every matter.”

-Wajdi Bkeirat-

“Reconciliation means a merger to me. Give and take and allowing yourself to soften and to make peace within.”

-Kavi-

Page 6

Reconciliation

Reconciliation is a journey of healing, where we set aside past grievances and come together with respect, understanding, and hope. This page is a continuation of the reflections on reconciliation shared by people from around the world, each bringing their unique and deeply personal interpretation. Some contributions are anonymous, while others bear a name, yet all reveal a shared belief in the power of reconciliation. Though it means something different to each of us, it is a universal thread that connects us. May we continue to reconcile and flourish together in this beautiful world we share and short life we live.

"The word reconciliation to me starts with forgiveness and continues through unconditional love. When individuals have the capacity to forgive, even while remembering the harm others may have caused them, and practice unconditional love, reconciliation is possible. In my work in care homes, we help our residents reconcile with their memories of the past by bringing professional live entertainment back into their lives."

-Professional Joe Goldblatt, Chair, Edinburgh Interfaith Association-
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"Reconciliation is about forgiving the past and choosing to move forward. We don't need to be best friends, but we do need to respect one another. With only one life to live and one earth to share, we can't afford to spend our time fighting and hating. Let's make the most of our time by building bridges, not walls."

-Anonymous-

"Reconciliation is the art of setting aside our differences, reaching out with open hands to forgive, to live, and to flourish together."

-Emma Oliver -

Public Relations Manager,
Operating Together

"Reconciliation is a two-way path of forgiving and going on living together as normal people."

-Sliman Mansour, Artist-
Pages 18-20

TOGETHER

The Journal

Mixed Media Art | Kavi



Kavi is a South Asian mixed media artist who creates work that explores the intersection of her cultural heritage, personal identity, and the contemporary world. Her work often uses traditional South Asian materials and techniques, such as textiles, metalwork, and calligraphy, to create new and unexpected forms. She is interested in the ways in which art can be used to challenge stereotypes and create new narratives about South Asian culture.



Photography by Ethan Freedman

Ethan Freedman is a journalist, writer and documentarian based in Israel. His work has been featured in The Times of Israel, Haaretz, i24news and IPS News. He has reported from all around the world, and enjoys a good joke.

In a time and place where division often feels insurmountable, glimpses of coexistence remind us of the quiet power of everyday reconciliation. A young woman sits on a bench outside a hospital, watching as a Muslim couple and their child stroll by. In a waiting room, an Orthodox Jewish woman and a hijabi Muslim woman sit side by side, bound by shared humanity rather than difference. In a region of the world, where such moments may seem unfathomable, they happen every day. Reconciling, coinciding, healing, and living together.

BLESSING BY:

JACK JACOB SAPAR

*Poet//Spoken
Word Artist*

I am proud to call you friend
My dear
Inspired to know that you are near
Right action
Thoughts
One heart
One Soul
For warmth and love
To you I call
Let's jam and dance
Enjoy
Entranced
On the beach of life
Come hold my hand
It is you I see
Lost in my dreams
A light beyond
Whenever here
I admire how
Your heart beat
Smiles
So free of care
Evolved
Above
Let's meet again
In joyous space
In the shade of trees
We'll find a place
To sit
To watch
In tenderness
Give gratitude
For this world around
It is simple truth
in love we'll find
What is common sense
One love for all
Not red or blue
Kindness that's pure
We will create a world
To heal and sooth...



ABDULL WARISH

“Reconciliation, in the context of my artistic journey, embodies the harmonious blend of past and present, imagination and reality. It represents the process of mending the fragmented pieces of my childhood experiences with the vibrant influences of contemporary culture. Through my art, I seek to bridge the gap between the innocence of youth and the complexities of adult perception. This journey of reconciliation allows me to explore and express the playful mischief that defined my early years while weaving in the profound impact of manga, anime, and video games. Each stroke on my canvas reflects a dialogue between the external world and the internal landscapes of my mind, resulting in a unified vision that celebrates both nostalgia and creativity. In essence, reconciliation in my work is about embracing the duality of existence—where memories and fantasies coexist, creating a rich tapestry of emotions and narratives. It’s a reminder that healing and understanding can emerge from the interplay of diverse influences, ultimately enriching my artistic expression. Through this lens, my art becomes a vessel for dialogue and connection, inviting viewers to reflect on their own journeys of reconciliation.”

-Abdul Warish-

Visual Artist



ABDUL WARISH

“Adventure island”
Oil on Canvas



ABDUL WARISH

“Black alphabet”
Oil on Canvas

Joseph Nowacki is a second-year medical student at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, with a deep belief in human rights and the conviction that a physician's duty is to serve all people. In his essay, "By Necessity and by Choice," written for the second chapter of **Together, The Journal**, Joseph reflects on the experiences of surgeons who provided aid in Gaza after October 7th and those who conducted training seminars for doctors of diverse backgrounds in Israel. He draws parallels between these efforts, highlighting the shared challenges and vulnerabilities of being both a doctor and a human. Joseph, who hopes to become a trauma surgeon, emphasizes that every person, regardless of circumstance, deserves the highest level of care and the best possible quality of life.



JOSEPH NOWACKI



By Necessity **AND BY CHOICE**

By Joseph Nowacki

In the days following October 7th, I sat in Washington Square park at the corners of 6th Street and Walnut Street in Philadelphia. I imagined that one of the surrounding apartment buildings was hit by an air strike—as someone new to medicine, what would I do?

In the months following, I listened to a surgery resident recount her mission trip into Gaza, Palestine. She spoke of dire conditions—any semblance of medical or sanitation infrastructure had been flattened by bombing. Medical workers made countless sacrifices each day to work among ghastly devastation, unimaginable to any American. In turn, she spoke of the resilience, bravery, and love she witnessed firsthand, from children, from local hospital workers, and from her colleagues.

Particularly astonishing to me were her stories of medical students she met, who thirsted for resources with which to continue their studies. I cannot fathom studying in those conditions—yet I feel an immense kinship with them as a medical student myself. Rarely a day passes where those medical students in Gaza are not on my mind. I hope I can mirror the quiet dignity they found through their work, and in turn I hope they have the opportunity to learn medicine, by necessity and by choice.

In the year following, I listened to an attending trauma surgeon speak about her experience organizing training for trauma surgeons in Israel, regardless of their background, in the treatment of severely injured people. She spoke of pivoting on emotions—looking to produce something positive with the physical and emotional pain that she experienced in the past year. Again, in the face of terrible tragedy, something had to be done—teaching and healing was chosen once again.

As I reflect on these powerful stories, I see in each our shared physiology, our shared vulnerability, and our shared humanity. Amidst suffering, the drive to heal and connect transcends nationality and religion, and allows us to transcend ourselves. I hope this shared humanity can drive us towards reconciliation.



IN THE QUIET STRENGTH OF CLASPED HANDS AND THE GENTLE HOLD OF A ROSARY ADORNED WITH A STAR OF DAVID, THIS PIECE SPEAKS TO THE GRACE AND UNITY FOUND IN SHARED SPACES. CREATED BY AN ANONYMOUS PERSIAN AMERICAN ARTIST, IT OFFERS A WINDOW INTO RECONCILIATION, WHERE FAITH AND UNDERSTANDING INTERTWINE, INVITING US ALL TO HOLD ON TO HOPE AND HUMANITY TOGETHER.



In this heartfelt image, an elderly woman is seen alongside Dr. Joe Goldblatt, professor of Planned Events at Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh, Scotland and the author, co - author, and editor of 40 books in the field of Events Management. He is a dedicated advocate for bringing joy and connection to care home residents. The woman is on her way to a special moment—her very own Fringe festival experience, brought directly to her care home. Through The Fringe Cares Fest, Dr. Goldblatt ensures that over 500 care home residents enjoy live entertainment each August, a reminder that joy and creativity have no age limit. The quiet warmth between the two speaks to something deeper than the event itself—it’s a moment of shared humanity.

For Dr. Goldblatt, reconciliation is at the core of this work. “Reconciliation, to me, starts with forgiveness and continues through unconditional love,” he says. “When individuals have the capacity to forgive, even while remembering the harm others may have caused them, and practice unconditional love, reconciliation is possible.” In these care homes, reconciliation is not just a distant concept but a lived reality. It happens when residents are invited to reconnect with the joy of life, not only through entertainment but through the kindness and presence of others who care.

This photo captures more than a festival visit; it symbolizes the power of connection across generations. It reminds us that reconciliation isn’t just about the past—it’s about finding love, meaning, and shared humanity in the present. Through simple acts of presence and joy, we see how reconciliation can heal, uplift, and bring people together, no matter their age or the distance of their memories.

DR. JOE GOLDBLATT

Chair, Edinburgh Interfaith Association

ABHISHEK THAPA

Abhishek Thapa is an international medical graduate from Nepal, dedicated to transforming the medical field through innovative approaches and compassionate care. Since graduating from medical school, he has actively engaged in various volunteer activities and worked in a private hospital, contributing to numerous health camps.

Currently pursuing a surgical residency in the United States, he aspires to become a renowned surgeon and scientist. His forward-thinking approach focuses on integrating new technologies and methodologies to drive meaningful changes in healthcare, reflecting his passion and commitment to advancing the field.

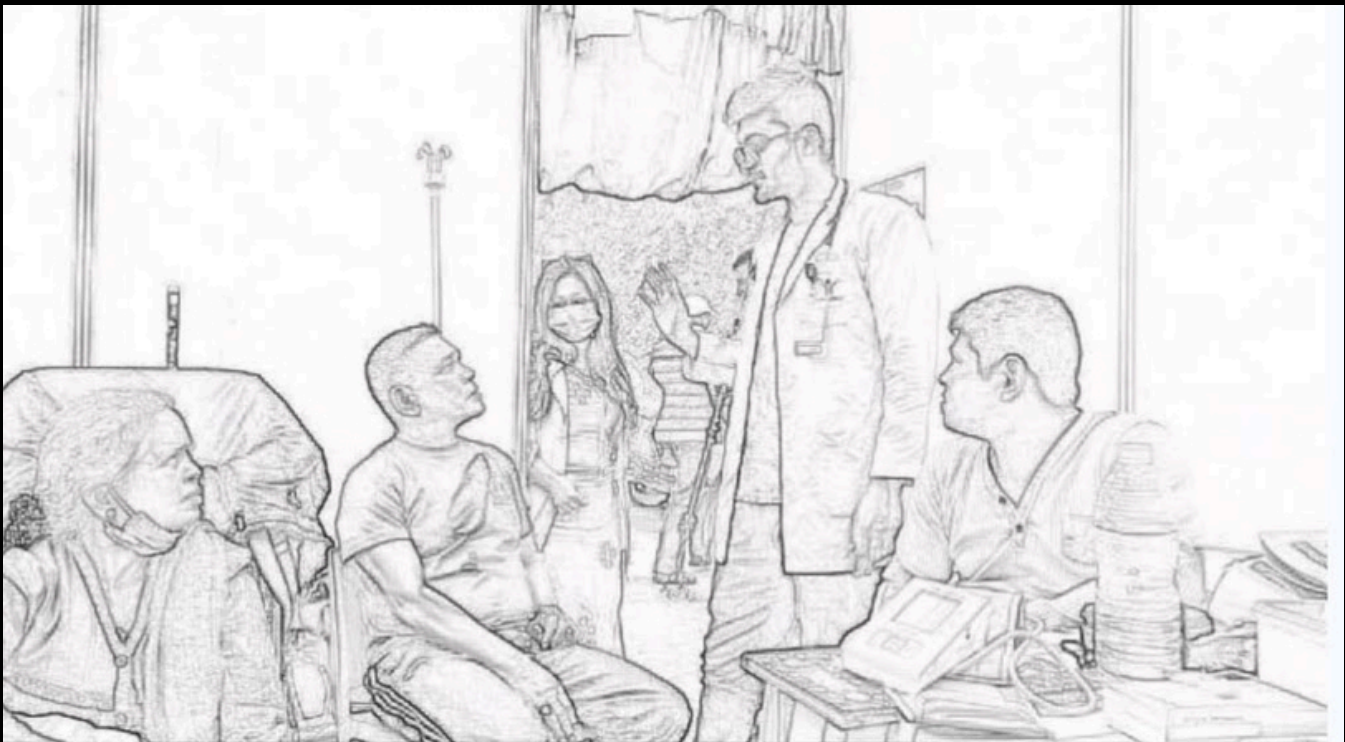
He firmly believes in dreaming big, regardless of the circumstances, and emphasizes the importance of consistency, discipline, and a strong mentality.

International Medical Graduate

TO THE UNKNOWN YET KNOWN

Abhishek Thapa

A sunny day with a bright sun in the sky
Standing & sitting with a heart holding high
Many injuries and cases to talk about
But instead
Like the one it says your heart goes with
someone only you hold dear
What you only want that you hear.



Proud to have met you in my journey
Wherever you are hope you are okay
That anxious eyes that trembling mouth
That moving hands, trembling and shuffling gait
You travelled a 1000 miles For something else
Instead feel into my way to follow my words
Down the road down the path
With a memory still beholding fresh
With a memory still beholding fresh

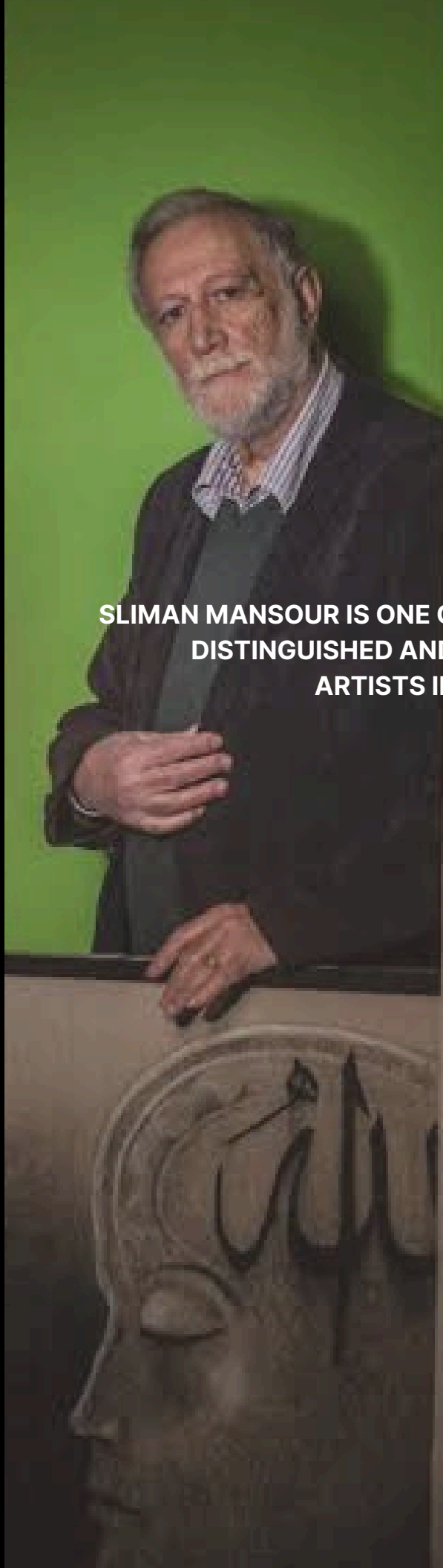
Sliman Mansour's work has come to symbolize the Palestinian national identity — has inspired generations of Palestinians and international artists and activists alike.

Born in 1947, Mansour spent his childhood around the verdant hills and fields of Birzeit — where he was born — and later his adolescence in Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Using symbols derived from Palestinian life, culture, history, and tradition, Mansour uniquely illustrates Palestinians' resolve and connection with their land. Mansour's artistic mediums have varied throughout his long career — changing to match his experience of displacement in his homeland and the developments and transformations of the Palestinian national movement. In addition to playing a key role in developing the Palestinian national visual identity through his rich and multi-faceted oeuvre, Mansour has also greatly contributed to developing the artistic movement in Palestine. In 1973, he co-founded the League of Palestinian Artists, which he led for several years. In 1994, he co-founded al-Wasiti Art Center in Jerusalem, which was established to build a bridge between Palestinian artists and their compatriots in exile and other international artists to archive and preserve art in Palestine. Mansour is a founding Board member of the International Academy of Art, and he has taught at several Palestinian cultural and educational institutions, such as Al-Quds University.

SLIMAN MANSOUR

Artist



**SLIMAN MANSOUR IS ONE OF THE MOST
DISTINGUISHED AND RENOWNED
ARTISTS IN PALESTINE.**



SLIMAN MANSOUR

Olive Field (2011)



SLIMAN MANSOUR

Woman Carrying Jerusalem (1997)

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about what reconciliation really means, and I'm starting to see that it has to begin with me. If I can't make peace with my own flaws, mistakes, regrets, and contradictions, how can I expect to find peace with anyone else? The hardest part is wrestling with my ego, that voice inside that clings to pride, holds grudges, and always wants to be right.

Sometimes I wonder if believing in forgiveness and the idea that we're all connected makes me a bit foolish. But the more I sit with it, the more I realize that the separation we feel between us isn't real. Others are really just mirrors reflecting back parts of me, sometimes the parts I like and sometimes the ones I don't. When I can see that clearly, kindness and compassion start to flow naturally, not just toward others but toward myself too.

Reconciliation isn't just about patching things up with other people. It's about understanding that deep down, we're not all that different. Some days it's hard, and I don't always get it right. But I believe that doing this inner work is the only way forward for me, for the people I care about, and for the kind of world I want to live in.

-A.A.-





EMMA SCRUGGS

15 years-old
Florida, U.S.A

This drawing portrays three hands of different ethnicities joined together, symbolizing the strength of unity across diversity. Emma believes reconciliation happens when people from various backgrounds and faiths come together, forming bonds of peace. Her artwork reflects the beauty of connection, where shared humanity transcends difference.

AVRAHAM KAN

Avraham (Abraham) Kan, born 1968 in sunny seaside Batumi, Georgia, lives and works in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Abraham's work can be best described as naïve primitivism. His paintings show scenes loaded with figures, events and color. Childhood memories, characters from books he has read, biblical stories and everyday life often crisscross in layers in one painting.

He has a rich imagination and a great sense of shape and color. Despite the fact that Kan does not use light or shade, his "flat" paintings are full of expression and motion. He can organize shapes and complex situations by seemingly simple means - the effect is immediate and striking. Kan's art is truly imaginative, hypnotic, bursting with life.

"I choose to bring the audience light, love and humor.

Darkness has no place in my art - life is complicated enough," he says. "The magic happens when you manage to put all you love, dream about and are driven to in one place, creating an indelible memory."

A. Kan has exhibited in Israel, as well as Europe. His work is owned by collectors in Israel, France, Germany, England and the U.S. Legendary Israeli artists M. Kadishman and M. Pichhadze (in blessed memory) have his work in their collections.

Abraham is a true professional, plunging with great passion into painting - constantly growing, evolving, improving technique, bringing to life new images, again and again surprising as a wonderful colorist. His unique mind never rests. Abraham's dedication has borne much fruit and will continue to do so.

*Artist // Primitivist //
Symbolist*



AVRAHAM KAN



AVRAHAM KAN



AVRAHAM KAN

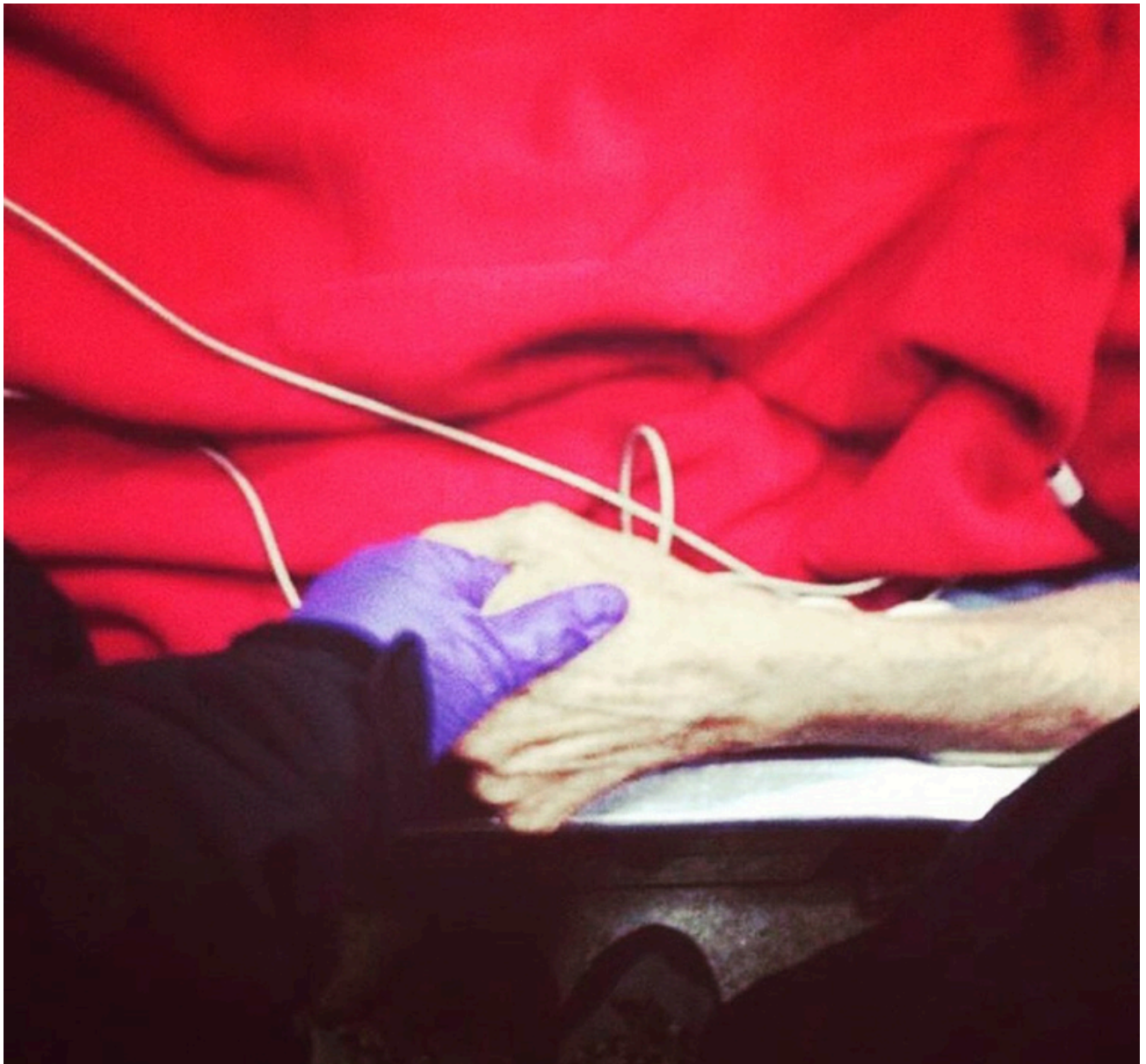


Photo by Hadas Elbaz

Hadas has been in EMS for the past twelve years, shifting from a veterinary nurse to an EMT and becoming a paramedic eventually. The rank never mattered, just getting a better set of skills and knowledge so she can have the ability to help more patients. Growing up in hospitals for medical follow ups as Hadas was born premature at only 24 weeks old, this environment of care always felt natural to her. This eventually led her to become a paramedic, and one day possibly a doctor, to fulfill her childhood dream. Hadas sees herself in every patient, and this is what sets the tone of care and treatment for them, this is her moral compass.

Do No Harm - It's the oath we all go by

The combination of actions, decisions, and feelings we put into moments that are accumulate into someone's worst or greatest situation, the brief connection, the unquestionable trust we earn by our patients will forever humble me to be a better human & paramedic.

For some it's just a job they're able to put behind once the shift is over,
For me it's a privilege rooted in my set of beliefs.

Final Words...

As you have seen, from these beautiful people, art, words, & thoughts - reconciliation has different meanings & shades of perspective. It does not require forgiveness, it does not require erasing pain, it does not require unconditional love, it does show hope, it does show an understanding that from this exact moment on we can determine how painless & joyful this life will be. From this moment on we can enjoy the moments even if we are mountain ranges apart or in the same room. Together, reconciliation will allow us to shine, allow our children to smile, and allow each of us to reach whatever it is we are reaching for.

Sincerely,
The Operating Together Team

TOGETHER, THE JOURNAL

PREVIEW

CHAPTER III



COMPASSION

The third chapter of *Together, The Journal*, themed "Compassion," invites contributors to explore the essence of compassion and its profound impact across cultures, communities, and personal experiences. This chapter will delve into the ways compassion shapes our interactions, uplifts those in need, and bridges divides by fostering understanding and empathy. Through art, photography, stories, and reflections, this edition seeks to capture the universal value of compassion in creating connections, healing wounds, and inspiring change in a world where kindness is needed more than ever.

CONTRIBUTORS CAN
SUBMIT ON OUR
WEBSITE OR EMAIL:

EMMA@OPERATINGTOGETHER.ORG

[@OPERATING_TOGETHER](https://www.instagram.com/OPERATING_TOGETHER)
[OPERATINGTOGETHER.ORG](https://www.OPERATINGTOGETHER.ORG)