

HAIFA 1955 - CARRARA 2011

Ronit came from afar. Her existence lay within an ancient, rooted history, marked by diversely dramatic past and present, the story of the Jewish people.

She graduated in 1978 in Art, Design and Teaching at the Institute for Teachers of Art (HaMidrasha) in Tel Aviv, after a long period of political militancy in Israel side by side with students and teaching staff of the University of Birzeit (Palestine). In 1984 she was awarded a study grant in Paris which allowed her to leave Israel and realize her need to affirm the meaning of her life as a woman, in a cosmopolitan existence open to art, history, and European and world politics.

Both during her stay in Paris and subsequently in Italy, where she went to live in 1987, Ronit always maintained her links to her native country, through unbroken communication with friends, artists and active intellectuals. A convinced pacifist, she denounced in a clear and courageous way the progressive Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and oppression and killing of Palestinians. She involved herself tirelessly in following thought with action, creating both intellectual and emotional links in order to aid communication and solidarity with the Palestinian people, as for instance in 2004 with the promotion of the ZEIT-U-ZA'TAAR Association, of which she was vice-president, working to unite Israeli and Palestinians living in Italy to find a just and peaceful solution. She was always alert to the problems of anti-semitism in both political and artistic circles.

Alongside her artistic activity Ronit showed an equal commitment and involvement in teaching and coaching children, young people and teachers, work amply documented in photographs.

Her inner conflict between her exiled existence and the desire to work in her own land became more acute in what turned out to be her final years of life. She was very happy when in January 2011 she was able to exhibit in Tel Aviv, in the Beit Homanim Gallery. She came back fired with enthusiasm for having re-established old contacts, for the success she had had, with renewed creative energy to take on new projects. First amongst these was the preparation with me of a retrospective of her work, exhibited first in Massa and then in Israel, with the aim of creating an international tour .

Instead, suddenly and rapidly, her impassioned and exciting journey through life came to an end, leaving us who had loved her so well breathless with shock.