

University of Haifa

The Senate of the University of Haifa, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the constitution of the University and in accordance with the recommendations of the President and the Executive Committee

hereby confers upon

Yosl Bergner

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

In recognition of his excellence, originality and creativity in the visual arts, which have established him as a world renowned artist; for his longstanding contribution to culture and art in the State of Israel through exhibitions, illustrations of children's books and designing sets for some of the greatest plays in Israeli theater, making him a pillar of support for local culture; for the mirror reflection that his life story and art have on the unique history of the Jewish people, its tribulations and endurance.

Conferred in Haifa, Israel
24 Sivan 5773/June 2, 2013



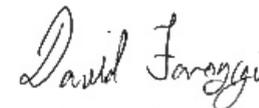
Ami Ayalon

Chairman of the Executive Committee



Amos Shapira

President



Prof. David Faraggi

Rector



YOSL BERGNER

Artist, Israel Prize Laureate

Yosl Bergner was born in Vienna in 1920 under the name Valdimir (Yosl) Bergner. As the son of the famed Yiddish Poet, Melech Ravitch, and the singer Fania Bergner, and the nephew of author Hertz Bergner, his childhood home was always full of authors and poets.

Due to his father's affinity to the Yiddish culture he relocated the family to Warsaw, which was the cultural center of Yiddish culture, when Bergner was still a young boy. In Warsaw, Yosl studied painting with the famous Jewish painter, Hirsch Altman. When he was 17 he immigrated to Melbourne Australia, with his sister, where he studied painting in the Academy of the National Gallery of Victoria.

During the Second World War he served in the Australian Army and upon completion of his service, he established, with his friend Yosl Birshtein, a group of artists who created the social realism style.

In 1948 Bergner moved to Paris where he lived for two years. In 1950 he made Aliyah with his wife, artist Audrey Bergner. At first they settled in the northern city of Safed, but later moved to Tel Aviv, to the famed studio in Bilu Street, where he lives and works to this day.

In his first years as an artist living in Israel his style was often viewed as exilic, but as the years went by his motifs became the symbols of Judaica and his style was perceived as a representation of Israel. Yosl Bergner's essence comes across in his work as he paints the Israeli reality as he views it.

In addition to being a renowned painter, Bergner has also designed sets and costumes for Habimah, the National Theater of Israel, especially in collaboration with his late friend, playwright Nissim Aloni. In addition, he illustrated many Israeli classics such as books penned by Shai Agnon, and Franz Kafka's *The Castle* and *The Trial*.

Yosl Bergner is one of the most important painters in the Israeli art world. His many achievements include solo and group exhibitions and shows in the best galleries and museums in Israel and around the world, including a one-man show in the International Arts Fair in Basel in 1982 and a Retrospective Exhibition at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art in 2000. He has represented Israel twice in the Biennale in Venice, in 1956 and in 1958, as well as at the Sao Paulo Biennale in Brazil.