

CALENDAR



INTERPRETATIONS: Anthony Dubovsky's paint "Rabbi Yehoshua Avraham Heschel Twersky (The Machnovkier Rebbe)" is among some 100 works featured in the exhibition.

THE ART OF EXPERIENCE

In Anthony Dubovsky's exhibition at CUE Art Foundation, a portrait of Rabbi Yehoshua Avraham Twersky hangs on the wall next to bluesman Big Joe Williams, two paintings above Gina Lollobrigida, and a few feet to the right of Leon Trotsky. These juxtapositions are intentional, but they are not ironic.

"These things are all present in our experience," Dubovsky told the Forward.

Dubovsky grew up in San Diego, (His Grandfather had escaped from Siberia and moved to California in the hopes that the warm weather would cure his tuberculosis.) Dubovsky was a surfer in California. He moved to Buenos Aires and then later to Warsaw. At age 32 he learned the Alef-Bet and spent three months living on the edge of the Mea She'arim neighborhood in Jerusalem, an experience he documented, in writing and in art, in his book, "Jerusalem: To Know by Living" (El Léon Literary Arts, 2004).

"There are many streams," he said, "You have to know your own streams to make sense of the other streams." For Dubovsky, these streams intermingle freely. While living in Jerusalem, he began listening to reggae music.

"I needed something about Yerushalayim that wasn't about turf," he said, "I found that in reggae. It's all about Zion." Accordingly, the exhibit includes a painting of reggae legend Max Romeo.

The subjects of the paintings come from photographs, from memories, from other paintings, and from poems, songs and stories, all rendered in delicate, tactile brushstrokes. Dubovsky called his style "ancient impressionism." He cited a quotation from artist Philip Guston: "The brush always has to be a little ahead of the idea."

On January 12, Dubovsky will talk and sing about the inspirations for some of his paintings. "All the paintings have stories, and almost all of them have songs, so I'll sing some songs and do some stories," he said. His plan is to talk until he runs out of things to say, and then intersperse songs on the guitar and concertina at those moments. "I have no idea what I'm going to do," he confessed, "but it'll be fun."

- ANTHONY WEISS

CUE Art Foundation, 511 W. 25th St., ground floor; through Jan. 28, 2006; Tue-Sat, 10am – 6pm; talk and performance: Jan 12, 6-8pm.; free, RSVP requested. (212-206-3583 or www.cueartfoundation.org)