

BRYAN FRIEDLAND

Artist, actor, singer
Jerusalem, Israel

Bryan Friedland is a Jerusalem artist, actor, and singer with high-functioning autism. Born in the United States in 1983, Bryan emigrated to Israel 30 years ago and it was there that he was first diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum.

Friedland turned to art in its many forms as a means of artistic and personal expression which helped facilitate communication with the outside world. His works depict his personal perception of the world around him. During the Covid years he felt very isolated and depressed. With canvas and acrylics, he went to nearby parks and outdoor facilities and started painting to express a lot of his anxieties, frustrations and hopes for a better world.

Now, during the Israeli / Hamas War, Bryan again turned to the canvas for comfort and consolation as an outlet to express his innermost feelings. He continues to paint and has created some amazing artworks relating to the war, the tunnels, the captives, and the tragic losses; yet with an optimism that peace will one day endure. Most of his art is inspiring, with hidden messages expressed.

In addition to his artwork, Bryan regularly plays roles in musicals at the Hebrew University "Beit Hillel" Theater. He loves the theater and uses that medium as well to express his innermost emotions.

Bryan lives in an independent living apartment directed by SHEKEL – Inclusion for People with Disabilities; an organization enabling inclusion for many thousands of Israelis with various disabilities. Shekel has published a book of Friedland's art, which is considered "an artistic diary" describing Bryan Friedland's life, feelings and emotions through his words and art. "In this book, Dreaming, Friedland utilizes drawings and free text to convey an extraordinary way of observing the world."

