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## **Out of Darkness and into Light**

Rhea Carmi's art is a profound search to make visual the darkest and most illuminated aspects of the human condition. The artist leads us through a succession of piercing abstract narratives from the grim ashes of suffering, passed the horrors of human cruelty, to emerge into the light of healing, compassion, and the ebullient joy of freedom.

Carmi's three artistic series, entitled: "*Humanities Struggles*", "*Humanities Resilience*", and "*Everlasting Spirit*", are at once painful and glorious, powerful yet unsettling. Although they are individual series, there is continuity, as Carmi reveals a path from *Humanities Struggles* to *Everlasting Spirit*, albeit uneven, circuitous, and unpredictable.

The artist uses few references to known symbols, preferring to capture the visual essence of pain to healing rather than lock into particular pre-determined configurations. Instead, she weaves vivid abstract compositions with mixed media, intense dark and light colors, sharp and soft lines, and geometric and organic shapes. These iconic narrations convey, through passionate calligraphy and emotions, extremes of human experiences, its depths and its heights; and thus, evoke hidden primal feelings in all who are receptive

Born Israeli, and married, for 46 years, to a Holocaust survivor, the subject of human suffering that plagues her people is second nature. For thousands of years, great Talmudic sages contemplated and explained how all-consuming darkness can cast an enormous shadow on life, yet can be a force that brings tremendous spiritual transformation. With an unbreakable connection to this ancient wisdom, Carmi's art conveys a premonition of a Messianic age when all evil will be annihilated.

Carmi's nation continuously experiences conflict and struggle. It is integral to life, making an intrepid people even stronger. With this innate vigor, the artist stands fearlessly in front of each blank canvas or naissance sculpture, and with every artistic process, explores the subject of darkness, to discover and shape in physical form, the purpose of light: to bring hope, justice, beauty, the true essence of each human being.

Confronting powerful subjects, Carmi's art is dramatic. Referencing past and current historical themes, her art is political. Yet, her creations are timeless and transcendent as the artist does battle with each human demon. Consequently, her art describes grief and the fragile strength of the human soul, while leading us to an impassioned state of healing and bliss. In the end, Carmi's art is an eternal prayer, a wail that pleads for the incomprehensible to be finally understood and laid to rest.

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