

## “People want art that touches the soul.”

~ Udi Merioz, Artist and Owner of Blue & White Art Gallery



Artist Udi Merioz and Julie Ann Segal at the Blue & White Art Gallery, Jerusalem, Israel

which is now the largest exporter of artwork from Israel, he continues the heritage of what his father started.

Udi believes that art is important because it brings up the question, “How do we see ourselves?” I can’t agree more, as a firm believer that the art you have in your home should represent who you are, and who you want to become.

I shared with Udi that doing interior design and feng shui, I’m often working with clients to make sure what they have hanging on their walls suits them. The meaning of the piece, and how it makes them feel need to be in alignment with the soul.

“I agree,” remarks Udi, “Art can bring out a particular feeling. It can create the right atmosphere.” Creating the right atmosphere is important – but it has to be right for each person, individually. “Yes,” says Udi, “This is your mirror. Your walls are like a mirror to your soul.”

## JEWISH Art

### Meet the Artist – Inside the Blue & White Art Gallery with Israeli Artist Udi Merioz

By Julie Ann Segal

On my recent trip to Jerusalem, it was a true pleasure to meet artist Udi Merioz at his Blue & White Art Gallery. In speaking with him, and getting the inside story on his career as a gallery owner, artist, and curator to the Israeli Prime Minister, I found that even worlds apart, we have a lot in common when it comes to the meaning of art.

When his father, an artist himself, founded the gallery, Udi was nine years old. The first Jewish person to settle in the old city of Jerusalem after the 6-Day War, his father originally set it up as a museum so people could see the remains of the Old Jewish Quarter. Udi says doing this was like “putting a flag of Jewish presence here.” He wanted to “live here and create art.” It later evolved into an art gallery, showcasing an array of artists and styles, including Udi’s own works.

What came naturally to Udi as a child, “Everyone around me was doing it,” he tells me, eventually led to him creating works of art with layers of rich history and meaning. Some of his pieces are in the Prime Minister’s permanent collection. Running the gallery,

Meeting Udi was a privilege. For the opportunity to see his work, hear about the history of his gallery, and talk with him about the meaning of art, I am so grateful.

How does the art you have in your home make you feel? How does it add to the atmosphere you’re trying to create? Does it honor your past, but also lead you to the future you desire? As testament



“Sunflowers” by Udi Merioz. Oil on canvas.

“Flowers over the battlefield,” depicting Latrun Battlefield, in honor of the wounded. Actual soil from the site was used in the piece. The lower part is darker, then lightens up, “That’s life itself – it starts dark, and hopefully you finish in the light,” says Udi.

from a wise man, your art should reflect who you are, in your soul.

If you're interested in purchasing Udi's art, or hearing more about the pieces available at the Blue & White Art Gallery, please contact me by calling 952.920.2827 or emailing [julie@metrointeriors.com](mailto:julie@metrointeriors.com).



For more information on Julie Ann Segal, and how art in your space can change your life, visit [www.metrointeriors.com](http://www.metrointeriors.com). Watch videos, read articles and browse portfolio before and after photos. To schedule a design consultation or inquire about

services, email [julie@metrointeriors.com](mailto:julie@metrointeriors.com) or call 952.920.2827.



"Four Seasons", oil on canvas

"Soldiers of the IDF from four different units, reflecting the four seasons of the year. All year 'round these soldiers protect us through their military service as well as through their prayers for peace and good times."

## Theatre

### HOME ON THE MORNIN' TRAIN | Feb. 6–22, 2015 Youth Performance Company

Howard Conn Fine Arts Center  
(1900 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis, MN)

By Kim Hines. Two stories of courage and faith are intertwined in this play about a Jewish girl in WWII Germany and a young runaway slave in the deep South in the early 1800s, both relying on an underground railroad for survival and for freedom.

\$7-\$15 | [youthperformanceco.com](http://youthperformanceco.com) | 612.623.9080 Age 8+



### Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company

Hillcrest Center Theater  
(1978 Ford Pkwy., St. Paul, MN)  
[mnjewishtheatre.org](http://mnjewishtheatre.org) | 651.647.4315

#### NEW JERUSALEM | Oct. 18–Nov. 9, 2014

By David Ives. Directed by Kurt Schweickhardt. When Sephardic Jews of Spain and Portugal settled in Amsterdam after fleeing the Catholic Inquisition, they began to police their own community for unorthodox beliefs. In 1656 Baruch de Spinoza, heir apparent to the chief Rabbi, is accused of atheism and is summoned to the synagogue to defend himself in this riveting drama that explores nature, liberty, and the meaning of God. \$12-\$28

#### THE CHANUKAH GUEST | Dec. 4–21, 2014

By Jenna Zark. Based on the book by Eric A. Kimmel. Directed by Candace Barrett Birk. Elderly Bubba Brayna, who makes the best potato latkes in the village, prepares for Chanukah when an unexpected visitor appears at her door in this funny, heartwarming tale that explores the cultural traditions of Chanukah. \$17

#### STARS OF DAVID | Feb. 14–Mar. 8, 2015

By special arrangement with Daryl Roth. Based on the book by Abigail Pogrebin. Conceived by Aaron Harnick. Directed by Michael Kissin. Music by Marvin Hamlisch and stories about Leonard Nimoy and Ruth Bader Ginsburg –this is just a sampling of what the audience will experience in this new musical revue that highlights over 30 accomplished Americans as they reflect on their Jewish heritage and the role it has played in their lives. \$12-\$28