Ofra Friedland was born in Jaffa, Israel, in 1959. She is known for her murals, tapestry, ceramics, and sculpture. She began her studies at the Ramat Gan College of Art and the Avni Institute in Tel-Aviv, after which she apprenticed to several of Israel’s leading artists, and was first recognized for her oil paintings, which use Biblical themes for inspiration.

Described as a “lyricist in color,” Ofra is a master of diverse artistic media and has been commissioned to design complete environments such as synagogue sanctuaries. Her complete environments also appear in several hotels in Israel and in commercial buildings in the United States and Europe.

Ofra’s artistic philosophy includes a willingness to entertain new perspectives and to bring together wildly divergent influences. She sees her art as a means to interpret and amalgamate a subject with material in a unique and meaningful way that people can recognize and connect with.

Because Ofra sees her art as a medium for discovering personal truth and values, she has volunteered in projects that open the door of creative expression for different groups with special needs, including young cancer patients, IDF soldiers at a rehabilitation center, and gifted children.

In *Crossing the Desert*, Ofra depicts the arduous journey of the people at first light, surrounded by boundless desert, following their hope of the promised land.

[http://ofrafriedland.com/]