

Explaining the painting

Farmhouse in the Black Forest, Germany.

This painting is made of two superimposed paintings. What you see is an artistic view of a farmhouse in the Black Forest of Germany in the late 1980s, but each line of this farmhouse in the foreground and the landscape is somehow controlled by a drawing in the background. It is a realistic view of the area and the specific location of the farmhouse is identified on the main beam of the house as in the vicinity of the village of Alpirsbach in the Black Forest.

History of this painting

This is a painting from the “commercial period” of the artist in 1988-1989 in Columbus Ohio, USA and part of a small series of paintings using the same technique. At that period, the artist painted about three dozen medium size paintings, such as this one. By an unfortunate oversight, no photographic record was taken and their whereabouts today is unknown. All were purchased by an art dealer in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Because of a financial dispute with the dealer, the last delivery of paintings was postponed indefinitely. These are the paintings whose whereabouts is known today. They were shipped to Israel in 1989 and stored for 25+ years and returned to the USA in 2015, partially damaged during storage. All were later restored by the artist to their original state. The paintings lack details characterizing later art works by the artist. Because of commercial pressure in the late 1980s, when deadlines for delivery and sales were far more important than proper time-consuming details, almost all these paintings lack details and painted in colorful 2D, where the idea behind the painting was more important than the details.

The artist visited Germany several times in the mid-1980s, as part of his position as scientist at the Weizmann Institute of Science of Israel. During one of the conferences, he had an opportunity to visit the gigantic farms houses in the Black Forest. These old farmhouses combined both living and work rooms, as well as animal stalls under a single roof; they inspired this painting.

This segment was written in 2018 as a request to understand the meaning of this painting.