

Explaining the painting

The Iguazu Falls in Argentina and Brazil

This painting is made of two paintings. What you see is an artistic view of the Iguazu Falls in Argentina and Brazil from far away where the river downstream the falls is made of two human figures.

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 was invited in 1988 to give a postgraduate scientific course at the Institute of Microbiology of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. As a reward for the course the organizers offered the foreign lecturers a short trip to the Iguazu Falls on the border between Argentina and Brazil, the largest waterfall system in the world. They were accommodated in a typical Latin American “Love motel” for reasons not remembered. Coming from a conservative upbringing, he was amazed by the easy-going attitude of the Brazilians, the atmosphere of “free love” on the beaches and in these love motels. All this affected his impression of the country and appear in this painting.

This painting was moderately damaged during its long storage period and was restored by Yoav Bashan in 2017.

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