

Understanding the painting

This portrait of Mrs. Sara Bashan, the honorary president of The Bashan Foundation, was painted in a photographic style when she was 87½ years old and hangs in her home in Hadera, Israel. Apart from being a realistic portrait, the bunch of grapes symbolizes that she is a life-long viticulturist. The building at the bottom right is the former administration building of the Baron Rothshield in Zichron Ya'akov, Israel. He sponsored the first pioneers in Israel in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (see the history section of The Bashan Foundation for more historical background). Mrs. Sara Bashan lived for 60 years in front of this locally-famous building, which currently serves as the Museum of the Pioneers of Israel. The blessing on the top right hand (in Hebrew) is a traditional Jewish blessing for the elderly on their birthday and means "To 120".