

ISRAEL IN SPACE



Using the art and methodology of popular Israeli artist Hanoch Piven, we can explore Israel's culture, values, and history, as well as our own personal connections to Israel.

Piven is a contemporary Israeli artist whose whimsical portraits tell stories with depth and complexity. His work depicts prominent people using an array of seemingly random objects—each of which carries meaning. It's amazing how much we can learn about a person from Piven's portraits.

In Piven's video, [*What Are We Made Of?*](#), he describes how he uses "the language of objects" for creative exploration and learning. Each object tells a story, and when the story is not immediately clear—great conversations ensue!

About Hanoch Piven

Born:

August 21, 1963

Montevideo, Uruguay

Immigrated to Israel at age 11

Studied:

School of Visual Arts, New York

Graduated 1992

Website:

www.pivenworld.com



Fun fact

Piven attended Blich High School in Ramat Gan, the same high school as Ilan Ramon.



ISRAEL'S FIRST ASTRONAUT

Looking from the space shuttle, Ramon and another astronaut commented that "Earth is one unity and no borders are seen." They added that the view reminded them of John Lennon's song, *Imagine*.

- ▶ What objects do you see in the portrait and what do they tell you about Ilan Ramon?
- ▶ What themes do you see reflected?
- ▶ Where do you see Judaism in this portrait? Leadership?





Each carefully selected piece carries meaning and many are connected to the objects he brought with him to space:

- ▶ Capturing Ramon's focus and determination, his eyes are created by the same **Magen David** (Stars of David) attached to Israeli Air Force planes.
- ▶ The energy captured within a **battery** sits in the middle of his face.
- ▶ The two tiny **Torah** books that form his mouth represent the Torah scroll he brought with him to space, and his eyes are framed by the **mezuzot** he transported.
- ▶ The spacesuit includes **Israeli Air Force wings**, the **Blich High School logo** where Ramon's children went to school, **Megillat Ha'atzmaut** ([Israel's Declaration of Independence](#)), a **navigational compass**, and **patches of both NASA and the Columbia mission**. The **Israeli flag** is affixed on Ramon's sleeve.
- ▶ He also took with him "**Moon Landing**," drawn in Theresienstadt by Petr Ginz. A copy of the picture is on his uniform here, as well as an [ancient shekel coin](#).
- ▶ Ramon's neckpiece is made up of **Middle Eastern maps**, representing Ramon's work as the navigator on the Iraqi Nuclear Reactor bombing mission.
- ▶ The zipper of his spacesuit is made up of a **recorder**, representing music, inspiration and all that can't be captured in an object.

In the background, we see the **solar system**, including **Earth**. Approaching the bright full Moon, we see SpacEL's **Beresheet** spacecraft, carrying the **Tefilat Haderech** (Traveler's Prayer).



WHAT WOULD YOU BRING TO SPACE?
מה הייתם לוקחים אתכם לחלל?