

# Foreword

Having known Haim Shiff closely for more than forty years of true friendship and great respect, I can attest that Haim's love of art in general, and of Israeli art in particular, was second only to his love of the land and his love for his family.

Haim's love of art was embodied by his habit of surrounding himself with art works – at home, in his office, and in the hotels he built and managed. In selecting these works, he was often motivated by a desire to promote young, as-yet-unknown artists.

The creative idea of honoring Haim's memory by means of an exhibition and an album of portraits by Israel's leading artists perpetuating his figure, faithfully conveys Haim's lifestyle, while reflecting the path he chose to pursue in a most suitable and refined manner.

No biography, as thick as it may be, could have encapsulated Haim's story, his character, his mindset, his inventiveness, and his intriguing life, in a more comprehensive way than this outstanding body of works, each of them unique and yet each of them – Haim.

Yigal Arnon