

Handout X: Zion Ozeri's Artist Statement

Traveling extensively throughout the world and observing the nuances of each Jewish community, it is striking to discover the common thread that runs through all of them. When you visit these Jewish communities, whether in Russia, India, Yemen, Argentina, or the USA, you see the small picture as well as the big picture—the individual stories that together create the epic journey of the Jewish people. In my photographs, I try to capture a meaningful fragment amid the whirl of Jewish life, one that helps the viewer appreciate the value of the whole, giving it meaning and purpose.

At the same time, our diversity is also our strength. Part of the reason why I search for the diverse and multiple faces of Jews around the world is to legitimize and celebrate our different backgrounds. I want to highlight and give credit to communities that may seem to be in economic distress but are rich with our core common values and ancient culture.

- Zion Ozeri, 2009