

ADRIANA NAVEH

The urban landscape art was developed from the old genre of landscape paintings, when the rise of modernism towards the end of the 19th century caught the eyes of the impressionist artists. The natural view was replaced with industrial buildings and train stations which became a legitimate subject in art as a result of the changing experience of nature observation. Although the genre has faded during the beginning of the 20th century, it was brought back to life during the middle of the century by the figurative works of the American artist Edward Hopper and remained a part of the global art scene ever since. Today, one of the many artists who are known for the genre is the British painter Stephen Wiltshire who is known for his ability to describe panoramic urban landscapes with perfect precision out of his memory, requiring nothing but a short walk around the city he will later paint.

The character of the urban '*flâneur*', a term coined by the philosopher Walter Benjamin, resembles the move from the "Old Romance" which praised the nature and the village to the "New" one which glorifies the city and the urban landscape. The flâneur, who's described by the French poet Charles Baudelaire as an 'artist', sees the large city - in an aesthetic, politics free sense - as the true nature

The city of Jerusalem, in which the Argentinian born artist Adriana Naveh lives is the main source of inspiration for her works. Although the city is absent from the works in an open literal way, the daily routine in the city and its spiritual experience are described from the point of view of the artist. Similarly to Wiltshire, Naveh too wanders around the streets she paints, but they're not described in her works as a perfect recreation but as a general experience. This experience became even more abstract with Adriana's move from acrylic colors on canvas to the media of car-paint on aluminum.

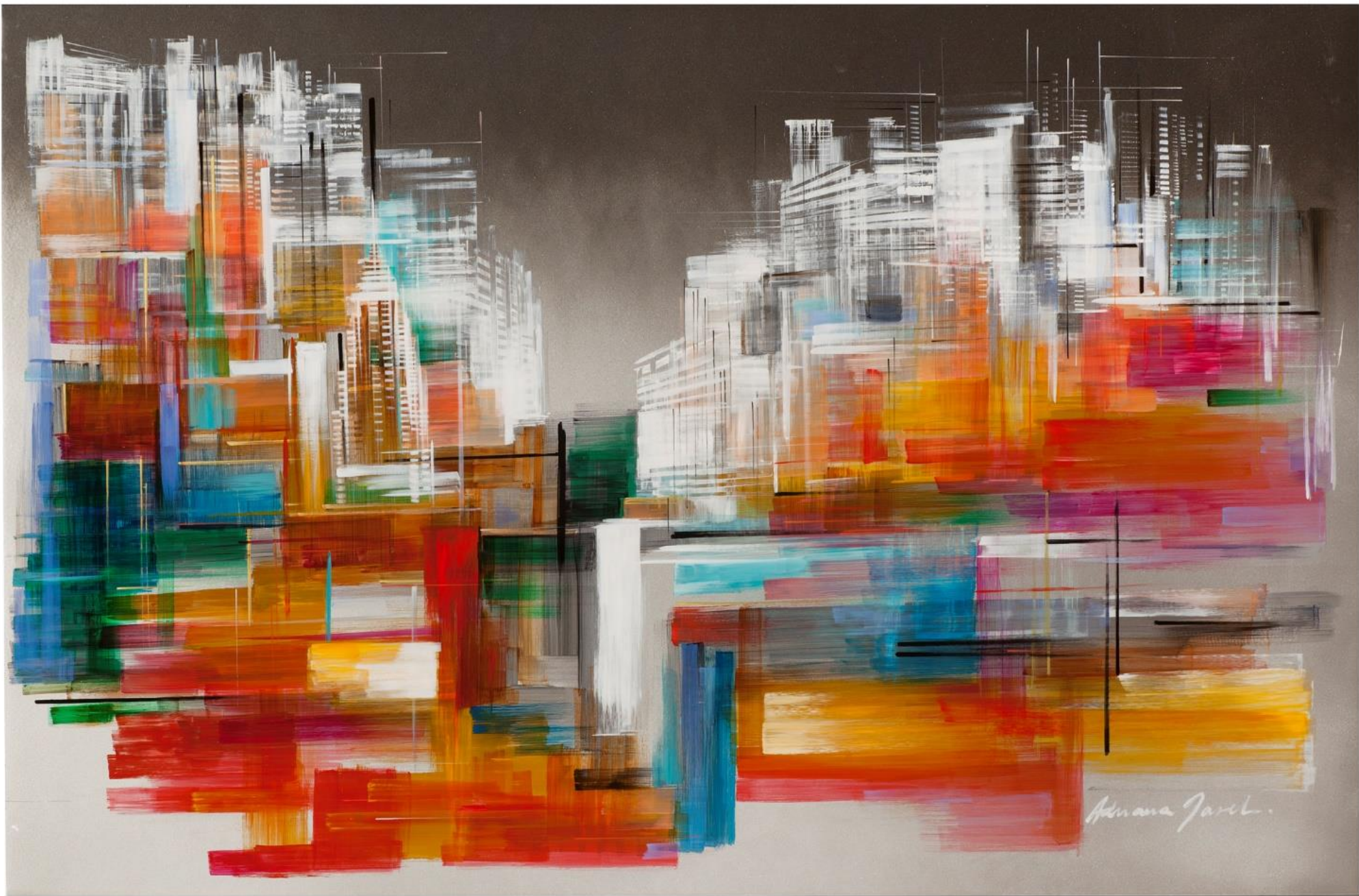
The abandonment of canvas as a traditional surface for painting and the use of new and unusual materials and techniques are a result of the development of the modernism movement in the 20th century, with attempts made by artists to test the limits of the popular methods. In the 1920's it was artists like Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Kurt Schwitters and Joseph Cornell who created collages from newspapers, manuscript papers and pieces of fabric which were pasted on the canvas; In the 50's Robert Rauschenberg created hybrid works which combined elements from the worlds of painting and sculpturing; and in the 60's The Pop artists Andy Warhol, Claes Oldenburg, Tom Wesselmann and Roy Lichtenstein used available objects (ready-made) from the world of commerce in their art.

The act of using new "current" materials in an artwork many times serves its message. As a result of the industrial development, aluminum represents for artists a symbol for the connection between man and nature. A good example would be the exhibition "Man's-Nature" in which the Israeli artist Zadok Ben-David created a field of flowers out of aluminum in an attempt to create irony regarding the connection between the human industry and the wild beauty of the nature. Naveh's use of aluminum surfaces matches to both the content of the artwork and to the image that's described in it. The massiveness of the inanimate material, out of which the structures described in her paintings are made, is replaced with a light and dynamic feeling resulted by the abstractness of the images, which slowly lose their identity and become a colorful texture spreaded on the surface.



Adriana Naveh, *Untitled*, car colors on aluminum, 120 x 180 cm.





Adriana Naveh, *TLV*, car colors on aluminum, 180 x 120 cm.





Adriana Naveh, *Book Case*, car colors on aluminum, 80 x 150 cm.



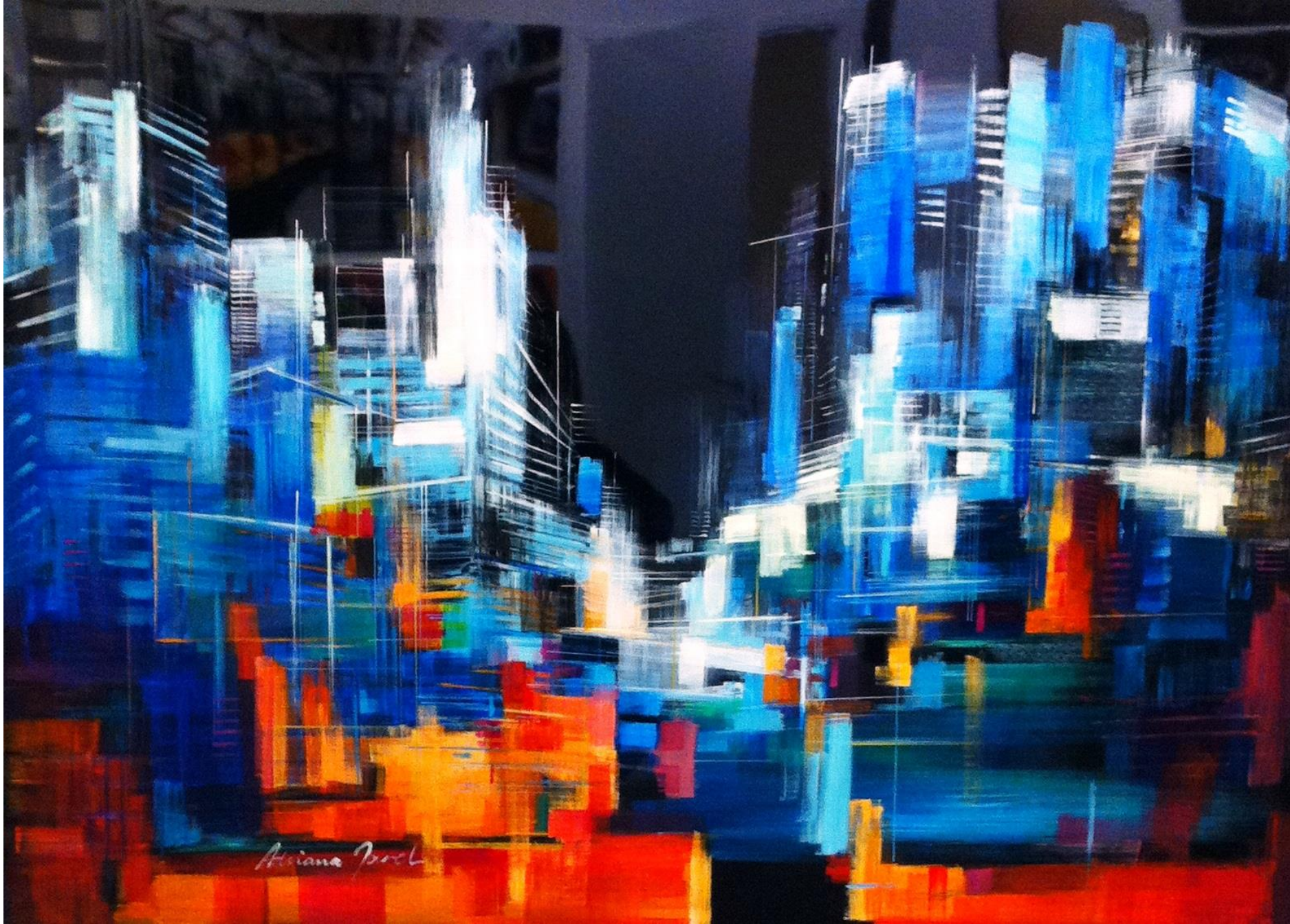
Adriana Naveh, *Untitled*, car colors on aluminum, 80 x 80 cm.





Adriana Naveh, *Untitled*, car colors on aluminum, 60 x 110 cm.





Adriana Naveh, *Untitled*, car colors on aluminum, 40 x 100 cm.





Adriana Naveh, *Untitled*, car colors on aluminum, 80 x 80 cm.