



**CREATIVE BUZZ**  
Rivka Bergson has blossomed as an artist since leaving her native Salford and settling in Jerusalem. Below, examples of her colourful work

# I PAINT IN SO MANY COLOURS SINCE LEAVING SALFORD FOR JERUSALEM

SHE MAY BE BORN AND BRED IN SALFORD, BUT ARTIST RIVKA BERGSON FOUND HER SPIRITUAL HOME IN JERUSALEM – ONE OF THE KEY INSPIRATIONS OF HER WORK. **SARAH DUNN** REPORTS

It was a crush that started when she was 12-years-old. Now, as a 24-year-old married mother-of-three, it's a full blown love affair.

And Rivka Bergson's affection for Jerusalem is clear to see in the art she creates.

It's a passion driven by her Jewish religion which has its roots there, as well as the people and culture she is surrounded by.

"I've know I've wanted to live there since I was 12," she says.

"I've fallen in love with it now and, although I still like coming back to Manchester, Jerusalem is my home now."

She cites a number of different reasons for making it the place she has settled with husband Shalom – who she met in the city – and children Ariel, three, Aron, two and Judith, seven weeks.

Rivka, who grew up in Broughton Park, says: "Obviously I am Jewish, and it's nice to be with people who are practising the same religion as you.

"But on the one hand whilst you're saying everyone is the same, on the other hand there are so many different cultures and ethnicities there too, which is a great influence for artists.

"There's a buzzing atmosphere, it's a real get up and go city."

The vibrant image of Jerusalem she describes matches the colourful paintings she creates, where she works in four different styles – acrylics, spin art, cubism and mixed media.

She says her favourite is mixed media, where she has chance to incorporate a love for different

materials which nearly saw her study a fashion and textiles degree at Manchester Metropolitan University.

She didn't end up taking the scholarship place after her 'gap year' in Israel spiralled into marriage, children and a professional art career.

The former King David School pupil loves creating pieces that have texture – and rather than being something that is stored off limits behind a pane of glass, she welcomes interaction with her work.

"If I'm painting a woman in a lace dress, I will use real lace in the picture.

I like things to be tactile," she says. "Far from the 'Do Not Touch'

signs you see in galleries, I like people touching my work. I think it helps them gain a connection with it."

The content of Rivka's work is varied – hopping from a hectic Manhattan skyline to a vibrant portrait of a rabbi.

They've been displayed in exhibitions as far as New York and Paris, as well as back home in Jerusalem.

Key themes include religion, music and family, often finished with what Rivka calls a 'whimsical' twist.

"It's my fantastical view of the world through a very colourful telescope," she says.

» Visit [rivkabergsonart.weebly.com](http://rivkabergsonart.weebly.com) to see more examples of Rivka Bergson's artworks.

