

ADVERTISEMENT



**NEVER MISS BREAKING
NEWS ON ISRAEL**

Get notifications to stay updated

STAY UPDATED

No thanks

Iconic Jerusalem mosaic reconstructed in largest such operation in Israel

‘The Rainbow,’ by Russian-Israeli artist Lev Syrkin, which graced the Bezeq telephone exchange building on Hebron Road, remounted on a specially built wall

By **TOI STAFF**

13 September 2021, 5:29 pm



‘The Rainbow’ mosaic on the Bezeq telephone exchange building on Hebron Road in Jerusalem. The mosaic was taken off the wall in July 2018 due to the demolition of the building. (Ranbar/ Wikimedia commons)

An iconic modern Jerusalem mosaic has been reconstructed after the building it graced was demolished, in the largest such operation in Israel, the Haaretz daily reported.

“The Rainbow,” by Russian-Israeli artist Lev Syrkin, was created between 1973 and 1974 on the Bezeq telephone exchange building on Hebron Road, commissioned by then-communications minister Shimon Peres to decorate the large windowless building that housed the analog exchanges.

The 5 by 15 meter (16 by 50 foot) work depicts the biblical account of the rainbow God showed to Noah after the flood and is inscribed with the passage: "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth" (Genesis 9:13).

Latest Articles from ToI



🔔

NEVER MISS BREAKING NEWS ON ISRAEL

Get notifications to stay updated

STAY UPDATED

No thanks

However, when the telephone exchange became obsolete, the building was ordered demolished to make way for apartment buildings in 2009.

Syrkin led a series of protests to save the mural, the first major work he created after moving to Israel, saying at the time that he was "offended to the bottom of his heart" by the decision to destroy it.

Get The Times of Israel's Daily Edition by email and never miss our top stories

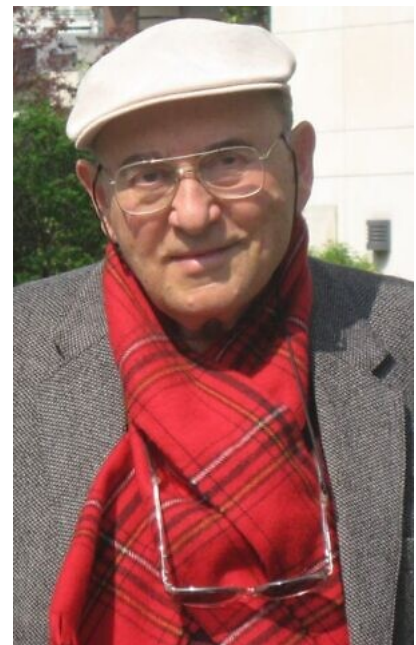
GET IT

By signing up, you agree to the [terms](#)

Following the protests, Jerusalem authorities authorized a plan to save the work.

Syrkin died in 2012. "He knew that he saved it and went in peace," his daughter Stella Syrkin told Haaretz.

"He created it in a burst of creativity after the Yom Kippur War in the hopes of peace," she said.



Lev Syrkin (Stella Syrkin/Wikimeida commons)