

# Yael Vinker

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<https://yael-vinker.github.io/website>

## Education

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**Postdoctoral Associate at CSAIL, MIT** 2024 - Current  
Advisor: Prof. Antonio Torralba

**P.hD student in Computer Science** (Computer Vision, Deep Learning) 2021 - 2024  
*Tel Aviv University, Israel*  
Advisors: Prof. Daniel Cohen-Or and Prof. Ariel Shamir  
Dissertation: “Generative Visual Communication in the Era of Vision-Language Models”

**M.Sc. in Computer Science** (Computer Vision, Deep Learning) 2019 - 2021  
*The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel*  
Supervisor: Prof. Raanan Fattal.  
Thesis: “Unpaired Learning for High Dynamic Range Image Tone Mapping”. GPA: 95/100

**B.Sc. in Computer Science and Visual Communication** 2016 - 2019  
*The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Israel*  
Magna cum laude. GPA: 94/100

## Honors & Awards

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EECS Rising Stars, MIT, 2024

Tel Aviv University **President's Award** for Outstanding Postdoctoral Students Abroad, 2024

**Blavatnik Prize** for Outstanding Israeli Doctoral Students in Computer Science, 2024

Nominated for the **Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship**, 2024 (declined)

**Best Paper Award**, ACM Transactions on Graphics SIGGRAPH Asia 2023, for the paper “Concept Decomposition for Visual Exploration and Inspiration”

VATAT Scholarship for Outstanding Female PhD Candidates, 2023

**Honorable Mention Best Paper Award**, ACM Transactions on Graphics SIGGRAPH 2023, for the paper “Word-as-Image for Semantic Typography”

**Best Paper Award**, ACM Transactions on Graphics SIGGRAPH 2022, for the paper “CLIPasso: Semantically-Aware Object Sketching”

## Teaching

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**Generative AI and Diffusion Workshop, Reichman University** July 2024  
Five-day evening workshop with 20 participants.  
Main lecturer; developed the course syllabus, presentations, and managed logistics.

**Deep Neural Networks for Computer Graphics, Tel Aviv University** 2023, 2024  
Main lecturer, developed the course syllabus, presentations, and logistics from scratch  
The course had 57 participants and received a high rating from students (6.89/7)

**Seminar in Neural Networks-Based Graphics at Tel Aviv University** 2022 - 2024  
Teaching assistant with Prof. Daniel Cohen-Or

## Selected Publications

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- Yarden Frenkel, **Yael Vinker**, Ariel Shamir, Daniel Cohen-Or. “*Implicit Style-Content Separation using B-LoRA*”. European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV 2024).
- Rinon Gal\*, **Yael Vinker\***, Yuval Alaluf, Amit Bermano, Daniel Cohen-Or, Ariel Shamir, Gal Chechik. “*Breathing Life Into Sketches Using Text-to-Video Priors*”. The IEEE / CVF Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Conference (CVPR 2024). [Highlight](#)

- Omri Avrahami, Amir Hertz, **Yael Vinker**, Moab Arar, Shlomi Fruchter, Ohad Fried, Daniel Cohen-Or, Dani Lischinski. “*The Chosen One: Consistent Characters in Text-to-Image Diffusion Models*”. ACM Transactions on Graphics (SIGGRAPH 2024)
- **Yael Vinker**, Andrey Voynov, Daniel Cohen-Or, Ariel Shamir. “*Concept Decomposition for Visual Exploration and Inspiration*”. ACM Transactions on Graphics (SIGGRAPH Asia 2023). [Best Paper Award](#)
- Kushin Mukherjee\*, Holly Huey\*, Xuanchen Lu\*, **Yael Vinker**, Rio Aguina-Kang, Ariel Shamir, Judith Fan. “*SEVA: Leveraging sketches to evaluate alignment between human and machine visual abstraction*”. Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2023)
- Kushin Mukherjee, Holly Huey, Xuanchen Lu, **Yael Vinker**, Ariel Shamir, Judith Fan. “*Evaluating machine comprehension of sketch meaning at different levels of abstraction*”. (CogSci 2023)
- Shir Iluz\*, **Yael Vinker\***, Amir Hertz, Daniel Berio, Daniel Cohen-Or, Ariel Shamir. “*Word-as-Image for Semantic Typography*”. ACM Transactions on Graphics (SIGGRAPH 2023). [Honorable Mention Best Paper Award](#)
- Hila Chefer\*, Yuval Alaluf\*, **Yael Vinker**, Lior Wolf, Daniel Cohen-Or. “*Attend-and-Excite: Attention-Based Semantic Guidance for Text-to-Image Diffusion Models*”. ACM Transactions on Graphics (SIGGRAPH 2023)
- **Yael Vinker**, Yuval Alaluf, Daniel Cohen-Or, Ariel Shamir. “*CLIPascene: Scene Sketching with Different Types and Levels of Abstraction*”. IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV 2023). [Oral Presentation](#)
- **Yael Vinker**, Ehsan Pajouheshgar, Jessica Y. Bo, Roman C. Bachmann, Amit Bermanto, Daniel Cohen-Or, Amir Zamir, Ariel Shamir. “*CLIPasso: Semantically-Aware Object Sketching*”. ACM Transactions on Graphics (SIGGRAPH 2022). [Best Paper Award](#)
- **Yael Vinker**, Inbar Huberman, Raanan Fattal. “*Unpaired Learning for High Dynamic Range Image Tone Mapping*”. IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV 2021)
- **Yael Vinker\***, Eliahu Horwitz\*, Nir Zabari, Yedid Hoshen. “*Image Shape Manipulation from a Single Augmented Training Sample*”. IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV 2021). [Oral Presentation](#)

## Experience

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**Student Researcher, Google Research** 2022 - 2023  
*Creative Camera team, Google TLV*  
 Working under Dr. Yael Pritch Knaan. Researcher in the field of generative models and VLMs.

**Research Intern, Summer@EPFL** Summer 2021  
*École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland*  
 Supervised by Prof. Amir Zamir at VILAB- Visual Intelligence and Learning Lab.

**Research Intern, Disney Research** February 2021- June 2021  
*DisneyResearch|Studios in Zurich, Switzerland*  
 Deep learning for content-aware video compression.  
 Supervised by Dr. Christopher Schroers and Dr. Roberto Azevedo.

**Software Engineer Intern, Google** July 2019 - March 2020  
*LiveResults Proactive team, Google TLV*

**Software Engineer Intern, Google** August 2018 - January 2019  
*OneGoogle team, Google TLV*

**IDF, The Technological Unit of the Intelligence Corps** 2014 - 2016

## Talks and Interviews

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**COGGRAPH Workshop** ([link](#)): Seminar about visual expression, *July 2024*.

**Blavatnik Prize for Outstanding Israeli Doctoral Students in Computer Science**, *June 2024*:  
“Generative Visual Communication in the Era of Vision-Language Models”.

**QueenB Academy Month**, *April 2024*: Sharing my academic journey with young female students.

**MIT CSAIL Vision-Graphics Seminar**, *March 2024*: "Generative Models for Creative Applications”.

**MIT Media Lab**, *March 2024*: "Generative Models for Creative Applications”.

**Google VisCAM Seminar**, *March 2024*: "Generative Models for Creative Applications”.

**Adobe Research GenTech Seminar**, *March 2024*: “Generative Models for Creative Applications”.

**Berkeley Computer Vision Seminar**, *March 2024*: “Generative Models for Creative Applications”.

**Graphics Cafe, Stanford University**, *March 2024*: “Generative Models for Creative Applications”.

**Weizmann Vision and AI Seminar**, *January 2024*: "Generative Models for Abstractions”.

**ICCV 2023, Paris**: Oral presentation for “CLIPascene: Scene Sketching with Different Types and Levels of Abstraction”.

**SIGGRAPH 2023, Los Angeles**: Oral presentation for “Word-as-Image for Semantic Typography”.

**Microsoft Data Science Bond**, *May 2023* ([video](#)): “CLIPasso: Semantically-Aware Object Sketching”.

**Lightricks Research Seminar**, *March 2023*: “CLIPasso and Word-As-Image”.

**Talking Papers Podcast**, *March 2023*: Interview with Itzik Ben Shabat, ([video](#)).

**Israeli Computer Vision Day**, *January 2023* ([video](#)): “CLIPasso: Semantically-Aware Object Sketching”.

**RSIP Vision Magazine**, *October 2022* ([article](#)): “CLIPasso: Semantically-Aware Object Sketching”.

## Community Involvement

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**Mentor at Meduyakot, Tel Aviv University** 2022, 2024  
The program aims to strengthen women's presence and leadership in exact sciences, in the program I serve as a mentor to female master's students

**Mentee and community member at Woman2Woman, 8200 Alumni Association** 2021  
The program promotes talented women through personal mentoring processes with leading women from different frameworks in Israeli society

**Languages** Hebrew- native, English- fluent