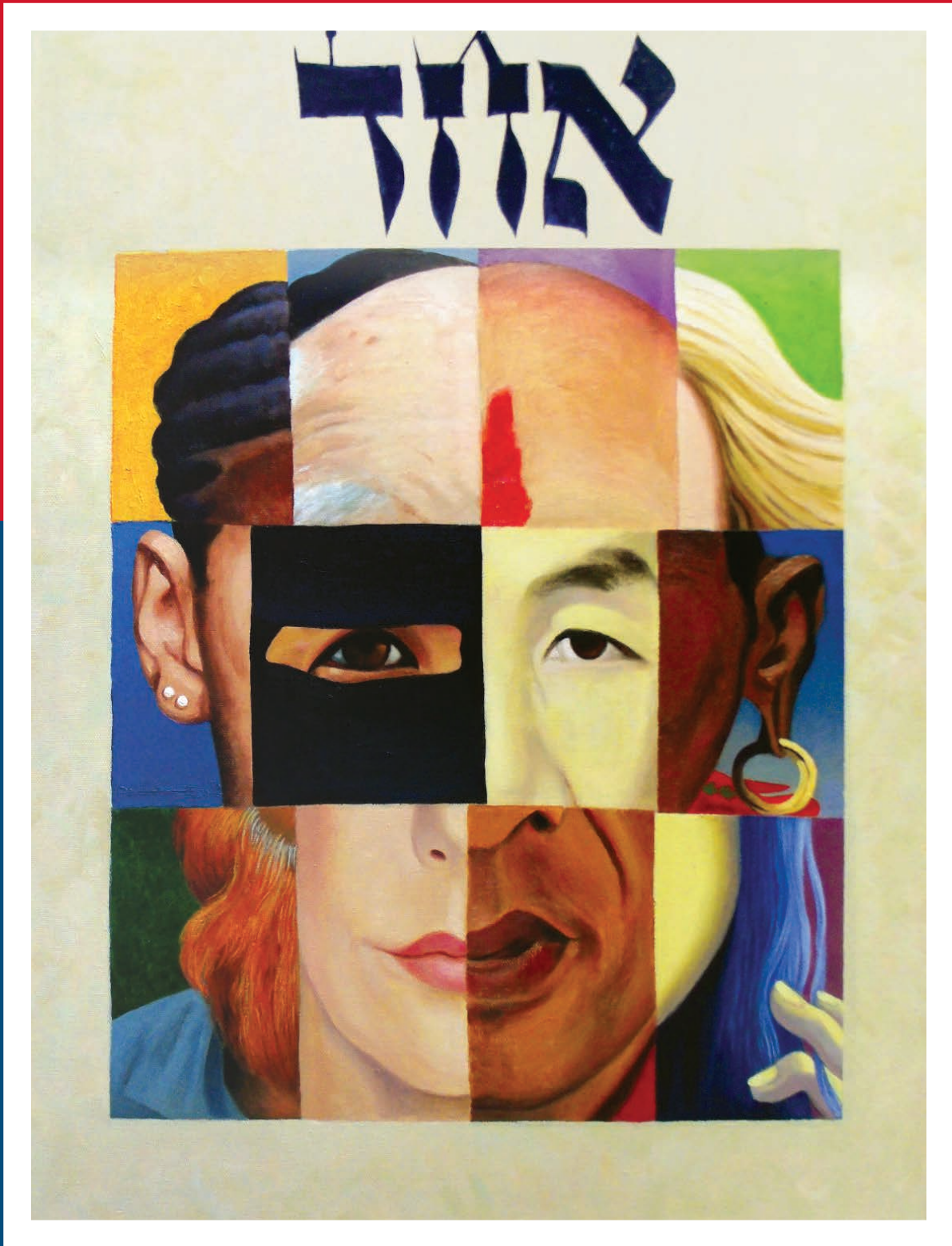


ONE NATION



DR. BERNARD HELLER MUSEUM
HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION, NEW YORK

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL



MANFRED ANSON

Statue of Liberty Hanukkah Lamp,

c. 1986

Brass 23" x 17"

Collection of Dr. Bernard Heller Museum,
HUC-JIR/NY

Manfred Anson's Statue of Liberty Hanukkah Lamp expresses the spirit of this exhibition, in which contemporary artists consider the state of our nation and convey their hopes for a just future.

Anson was one of 20 boys rescued out of Nazi Germany by the Jewish Welfare Guardian Society of Australia and later immigrated to the U.S. in 1963. He designed his Hanukkah lamp for the centennial of the Statue of Liberty in 1986 to express his gratitude for America's freedoms.

Here we see the Statue of Liberty's promise to all those seeking a safe haven in this country combined with the Jewish symbol of religious freedom. Jewish and universal values are linked in the cast souvenir figurine candleholders, each inscribed with a significant event in Jewish history, surmounted by the American eagle.

This Hanukkah lamp – and this exhibition – remind us of our responsibility to take action against the systemic racism, attacks on human rights, and rising antisemitism that divide our nation. Together, we must ensure that our country endures as a guiding light of liberty and justice for all.

Jean Bloch Rosensaft

Director, Dr. Bernard Heller Museum

ONE NATION

January 26- July 20, 2023

Dr. Bernard Heller Museum, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York

Jean Bloch Rosensaft, *Director*

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Phyllis Freedman, *Co-Curator, Exhibitions*

Nancy Mantell, Ph.D., *Co-Curator, Travelling Exhibitions*

Rose Starr, Ph.D., *Research Director*

Eleanor Berman, *Museum Communications*

Ellen Rosenbush, *Curatorial Assistant*

Raj Medhekar, *Exhibition Installation*

huc.edu/hellermuseum

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Presented by the Irma L. and Abram S. Croll Center for Jewish Learning and Culture at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, with the generous support of Mildred Weissman, z"l, and George Weissman, z"l.

Front Cover: **Alan Falk**, *ECHAD – One*, 2017, Oil on canvas; 24" x 18"

Back Cover: **Miriam Stern**, *Pekelakh*, 2020, Oil on canvas; 48" x 36"

E PLURIBUS UNUM. OUT OF MANY, ONE.

This was the Founders' vision for America: a nation forged from different cultures, national origins, religions, and economic classes – yet unified by a shared commitment to freedom, democracy, and guaranteed individual rights. How is this vision being interpreted in our nation today? The contemporary artists in this exhibition have investigated America's aspirations as well as its challenges through works mirroring the diversity of American culture and experience.

Generations of leaders are portrayed in Arthur Szyk's illuminated Declaration of Independence's founding fathers; in Jeffrey Schrier's montage of presidents; and in Archie Rand's portrayal of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. The Constitution itself provides the strong sails guiding our nation's journey in Mark Podwal's etching of the eponymous ship.

The trials and triumphs of becoming an American are expressed in Miriam Stern's bundles, symbolizing the "baggage" brought by immigrants; in Evelyn Eller's family immigration story; and in Heather Stoltz's evocation of those striving to enter this country today. Photographers Lloyd Wolf and Paul Margolis record the struggle for acceptance as newcomers labor to achieve the fabled American dream.

The Statue of Liberty's iconic welcoming message inspires the works by Ronit Levin Delgado and Michal Nachmany, while Bonnie Heller depicts the joy of new citizenship in a country of remarkable diversity. Alan Falk's *Echod* (the Hebrew word for one) focuses on what unites us, rather than what divides us as a nation.

Our motto, *E Pluribus Unum*, expresses more than an ideal. It reflects an essential truth about both nature and human society: we are stronger and more resilient together, embracing all of our differences, than we are apart.

Phyllis Freedman

Curator, Dr. Bernard Heller Museum



LLOYD WOLF

Immigration Rally at U.S. Capitol, 2013

Photograph, 12" x 12"

Commissioned by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Wolf explains, "As the child of a German-Jewish refugee fleeing fascist oppression, the grandchild of impoverished immigrants who came to America seeking freedom and opportunity, and the resident of Arlington, Virginia's Columbia Pike corridor, one of the nation's most ethnically-diverse communities, I felt the clear message that this young girl conveys with all my heart."

MARLENE D'ORAZIO ADLER

Justice for Woman Workers, 2021

Woodcut; 16" x 20"

The injustice immigrant farmworkers face is expressed by the women who work the fields, provide food for our nation, and are their families' primary caregivers.



JENNIE BOOTH

Sister Universe (I Am Because We Are), 2021

Oil and beeswax on paper; 9" x 7"

Clasp hands and gazing into each other's eyes, these two women share their common humanity, amidst a garden flourishing from unity.



ANN WINSTON BROWN

Endurance, 2020

Acrylic paint with collage and photo on canvas; 12" x 12"

The rugged stone, cement, and brick walls encasing this immigrant woman express the challenges and fortitude of those seeking America's promise of a better life.



JOSEPH CAVALIERI

Peace or Violence: NYPD 1961 Plymouth Savoy, 2020

Oil on canvas; 40" x 40"

Minute figures restrain a massive police car, in a work inspired by historic NYC police cars and the 2010 song "Peace or Violence" by the Belgian singer Stromae.

PAULINE CHERNICHAW

We the People, 2018

Archival pigment print, 26" x 20"

A young boy holding this sign points to the impact of electoral decisions made today on future generations.



RONIT LEVIN DELGADO

The Kissing of the Liberty, 2021

Lipstick on canvas; 50" x 36"

This Statue of Liberty, composed of bright red lipstick kisses, evokes feminine power and the immigrant artist's love for American rights, including freedom of expression.

DORIT JORDAN DOTAN

Seeding America, 2021

Photograph; 20" x 30"

This municipal garden in Skokie, IL, once the home to many Holocaust survivors and site of a pro-Nazi march, offers an oasis to the city's diverse international residents.



EVELYN ELLER

Heritage #3, 1998

Paper collage; 25" x 39"

Sepia archival documents of the artist's family's immigration through Ellis Island describe these European immigrants on the cusp of becoming Americans.

ALAN FALK

ECHAD – One, 2017 (cover image)

Oil on canvas; 24" x 18"

An image of “everyone,” focuses on what unites rather than divides us as a nation – core moral and humanistic values and the fundamental desire for peace and justice.



SYLVIA FEINSTEIN

I Am Black, 2022

Tapestry, 54" x 57"

The Biblical heroine Shulamit, the central figure in the Song of Songs and exemplar of young womanhood, takes pride in her dark skin, “grazed by the sun.”



JANET GOLDNER

Border Landscapes, 2020

Welded steel, 20" x 40"

The American landscape calls us to enjoy its strength, beauty, and diversity

BETH GROSSMAN

Searching for Democracy, 2012

Quill pen ink on canvas bag; 18" x 12" x 6"

This U.S. Mint or bank bag, discarded in 2008, is inscribed with our Constitution’s values and alerts the public about money’s influence on our elections.

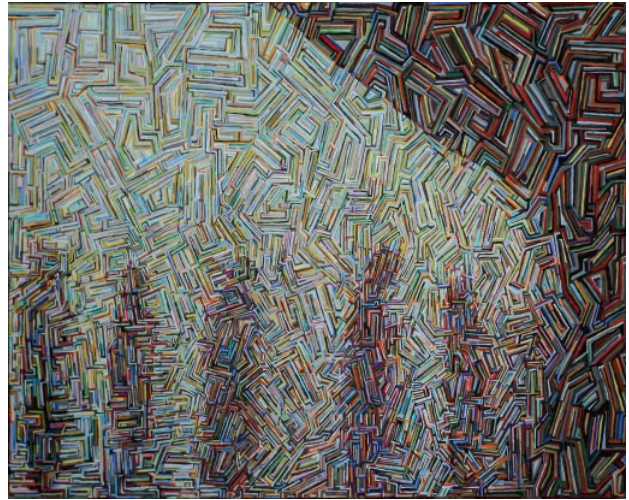


STEPHEN GROSSMAN

The Wait, 2020

Oil on panel; 16" x 20"

Uprooted, alienated immigrants are embedded in the fabric of our "melting pot" nation, formed of disparate backgrounds and increasingly isolated by the Covid-19 pandemic.



ALEX GRUSS

The Climb, 2022

Plywood and rubber; 20" x 29"

This perilous climb expresses the struggle of many individuals – immigrants, the formerly incarcerated, and the poor – to advance in our increasingly stratified society.



CAROL HAMOY

Daughter of the American Revolution, 2021

Mixed media; 12" x 16" x 2"

Abigail Minis, a supporter of the Revolutionary War and the only Jewish member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, acknowledges Jewish women's triumphs.



DEBBIE TEICHOLZ GUEDALIA

Post No Hate, 2021

Photograph; 39" x 27"

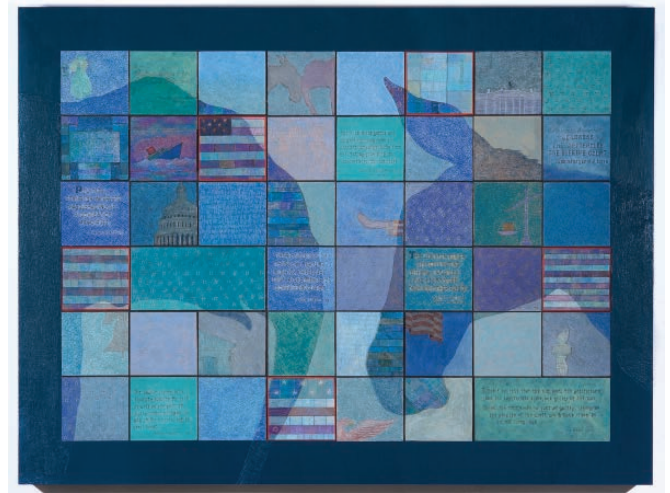
Masonite boards protecting store windows during the pandemic were ideal urban canvases for graffiti artists' self-expression and aspirations for peace.

E. SHERMAN HAYMAN

Recaps & Reconnaissance, Blue, 2013

Mixed media, wood panel; 30" x 40"

The artist asks, "Are we still one nation, or have we become a country of misaligned interests and power plays?"



HEBREW PUBLISHING COMPANY

Matron America, 1909

Rosh Hashanah printed paper greeting card, 4" x 3"

Collection of Rabbi Elliott Kleinman

Printed in Germany with Hebrew and English New Year's wishes for an American market, this European immigrant family is greeted by "Lady America,"

MARILYN HENRION

Synagogue – East 14th Street: An American Story, 2021

Digitally-manipulated photography, printed on fabric and quilted; 24" x 18"

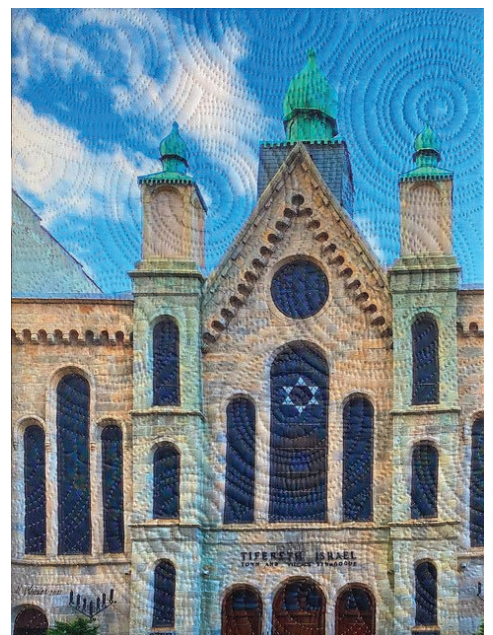
The transformation of the First German Baptist Church of the 1860s-1880s, to the Ukrainian Autocephalic Church of St. Volodymyr in the 1920's-1950's, to the Town and Village Synagogue since 1962, describes New York's ever-changing diversity.

BONNIE HELLER

The New Americans, 2021

Acrylic on canvas: 24" x 24"

The artist depicts the ceremony at which her son's Cambodian friend became an American citizen, amidst immigrants from around the world.





MAXINE HESS

Seeking Asylum, 2018

Textile, mixed media,
72" x 24"

Children separated from their parents are depicted by many hands, whose varied colors and textures represent the diverse ethnicities of those seeking asylum.



JUDITH JOSEPH

Detained, Contained, 2019

Mylar, decals, snaps; 25" x 23"

Insulating "shock blankets" are ubiquitous in the worldwide immigration and refugee crises. The uncomfortable silver Mylar "onesie" contrasts technology's wealth with society's meager compassion for immigrants.



TOBI KAHN

QXTYRH, 2021

Acrylic on wood, 30" x 24" x 2"

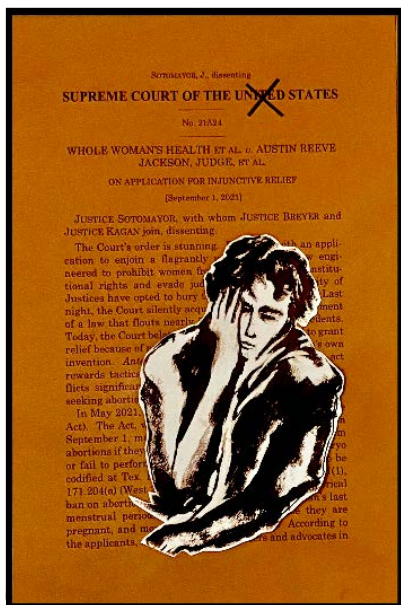
For this artist-son of WWII German Jewish refugees, liberty and justice are essential to the human condition, as expressed by art that "responds to the capacity of the soul to be at home in the world while signaling transcendence."

ELIZABETH LANGER

Sotomayor, J. Dissenting, 2022

Collage; 19" x 13"

Distraught women hover over Justice Sotomayor's dissent to the Supreme Court decision permitting Texas to ban women's constitutional right to an abortion.





PAUL MARGOLIS

Immigrants are Essential, 2017

Photograph; 11" x 14"

Multigenerational, multi-ethnic protestors advocating for reform highlight the importance of immigrants and their essential jobs in the work force.

TEESHA MUHAMMAD

Rainy Dayz, 2021

Acrylic and oil on canvas; 30" x 40"

Global citizens, sheltered by their umbrellas, exude pride as a family now living in a new place.

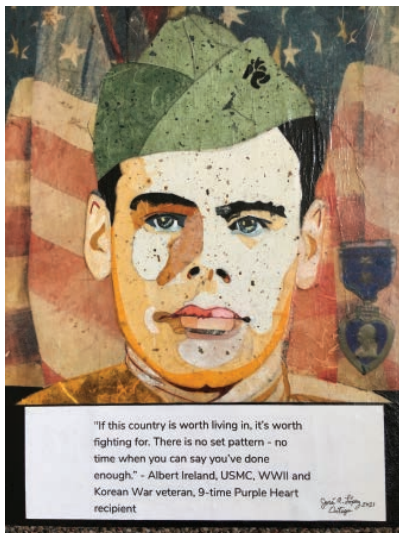


MICHAL NACHMANY

It's a Long Old Road, but I Know I'm Gonna Find the End, 2018

Mixed media, 23.5" x 19"

This image of the Statue of Liberty is inscribed with the 1931 blues song by Bessie Smith, whose ancestors arrived here as slaves but who as African American contributors to the arts and history are the embodiment of America's strength and vitality.



JOSE A. LOPEZ ORTEGA

9 Times a Hero, 2021

Acrylic on mulberry paper; 17" x 14"

The artist's high school physical education teacher, Marine Staff Sergeant Albert L. Ireland, was the only U.S. Marine to be awarded nine Purple Hearts for bravery in WWII's Battle of Okinawa and in Korea, by defending America's freedom.

MARK PODWAL

Ship of State, 2003

Etching; 20.25"x 16.25"

The Constitution itself provides the U.S. Constitution's sails, setting a safe, steady course for this nation's government after the 9/11 tragedy.



ARCHIE RAND

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1971

Acrylic on canvas, 24" x 18"

A portrait of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning social activist who, through peaceful protest, sought equality and human rights for African Americans and the economically disadvantaged and influenced the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



DIANE REICH

The Dove, 2019

Acrylic on canvas, 24" x 24"

The dove of Noah's Ark and the great flood is a symbolic harbinger of peace, representing hope across cultures.



PHILIP RILEY

The Struggle to Overcome Invisible Barriers, 2021

Archival pigment print, 24" x 36"

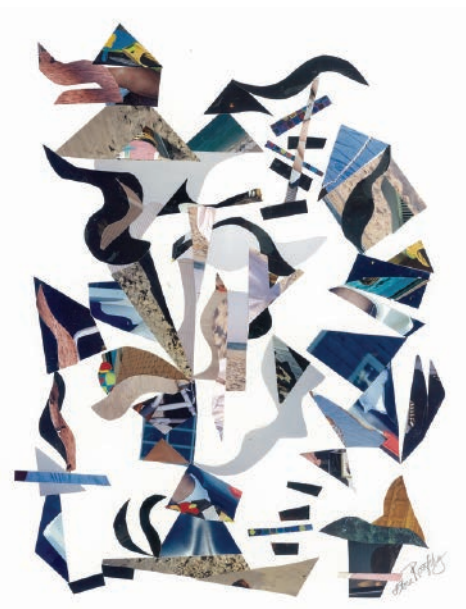
The swallowtail butterfly struggling to get through a closed window symbolizes the struggles of immigrants and people of color to overcome barriers in our society.

FLORA ROSEFSKY

Disentangled, No. 2, 2013

Collage, 14" x 11"

Fragmented photos express the continuous movement of people seeking a better life to escape from turmoil caused by global warming or political repression.



MADDY ROSENBERG

Stranger in a Strange Land, 2021-22

Hand-cut digital prints on museum board; 9.5" x 13"

Individual identity is presented as a puzzle, contrasting assimilation and homogenization of diverse backgrounds with retention of one's culture and ethnicity.

JEFFREY SCHRIER

Look for America, 2003

Mixed media montage, 34" x 28"

Images of the assassinations of JFK and Martin Luther King, the Kent State uprising, and the Vietnam and Iraq wars, juxtaposed in an idealized view of our nation, express the reality of persistent inequality, environmental threat, and racial tension.



JOEL SILVERSTEIN

Numbers: Bamidbar, Traveling, 2018

Acrylic on board mounted on wood; 36" x 48"

The Israelites' 40-year wanderings through the wilderness toward the Promised Land expresses the journey toward eventual redemption by a mixed race person – European, Semitic, and African – demonstrating that “all people are part of the Exodus story.”

JANE SOODALTER

Protest, 2020

Photograph; 12" x 18"

Soodalter's close focus through a macrolens reveals a hidden world of strange shapes, colors, hints of motion, and energy. Peeling paint and rusting metal express the emotion and tension inherent in the issues of racial inequality in America.



FRED SPINOWITZ

Red, White and Blue, 2021

Oil and acrylic painting; 20" x 24"

In Genesis 12:1, God commanded Abraham to "Go forth from your native land." This work expresses the call heard throughout this country by immigrants who left their countries of origin to seek a better life and create a collective society.

MIRIAM STERN

Pekelakh, 2020 (back cover image)

Oil on canvas; 48" x 36"

Since the Exodus, Jews and other immigrant groups have carried *pekelakh*, bundles, as part of their wandering and loss, expulsion and relocation. Symbolizing the figurative baggage we all carry, the artist fills her bundles with her battles against racism and injustice, and challenges us to confront our attitudes and actions.

HEATHER STOLTZ

Mending Our Country, 2021

Cotton fabrics, wire and polyester stuffing,
19" x 37"

Stoltz explains, "On January 6th, with rioters storming the Capitol building and a president rejecting the results of the election, I had lost hope in the system and people running it. My tattered patchwork flag with seams exposed and frayed represents this fraying of democracy and the state of the country. With Biden's peaceful inauguration, I added soft sculpture figures to stitch the flag back together and give each other a hand. They can never mend it completely; the flag will always show signs of wear. The struggle is not over, but we can start working together again toward a better future."



ARTHUR SZYK

Declaration of Independence of the United States, 1950

Printed illumination, 38.5" x 32"

Collection of Dr. Bernard Heller Museum, HUC-JIR/NY

This illumination of America's charter document is framed by a portrait of George Washington, scenes of the Revolutionary War, and the national symbols of the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the bald eagle.



Irvin Ungar, Arthur Szyk Society

YONA VERWER

Stanton Street Shul Amulet, 2009

Acrylic paint and gold leaf on canvas; 40" diameter

Inspired by Lady Liberty and the fanciful animals painted on this synagogue's walls, but traumatized by 9/11 and recent waves of antisemitism, Verwer created this amulet to provide protection for synagogues and assert freedom of religion.



MERLE TEMKIN

Everyone is Different, Everyone is the Same, 2021

Oil on canvas; 30" x 30"

Five tree trunks, each with different multi-colored stripes, evoke the diversity of humanity of all hues, all sharing the green earth and sunset sky.

RUTH WEISBERG

Liberty with Scaffolding, 2022

Oil on canvas, 61" x 32"

French sculptor Bartholdi's Statue of Liberty is depicted as it was in 1884 prior to its installation 1886. Its protective scaffolding represents its vulnerability and expresses the possibility and promise of an ideal we must continue to work to achieve.



RUDI WOLFF

The Sixth Commandment, 2014

Digital serigraph, archival pigmented inks; 30" x 40"

Wolff says, "Murder, whether by sword, gun, or willfully refusing to be vaccinated, destroys a civil society. Through the years our democracy has been repeatedly compromised by lynching, assassinations, and the refusal to outlaw automatic weapons."



Thou shalt not murder.

CHECKLIST

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Woodcut; 16" x 20"

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Woolworth Building - An American Story, 2021
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We Are Not China Dolls, 2017

Photograph; 11" x 14"
Proud Muslim, 2017
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30" x 40"

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Acrylic and oil on canvas;
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Black Lives Matter Protest and Reston Strong, July 2020
Archival C-print from digital original; 12" x 12"

Black Lives Matter at George Floyd Protest, DC, June 2020
Archival C-print from digital original; 16" x 20"

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