

Richard McBee

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BIOGRAPHY

Richard McBee was born in 1947 in New York City. He studied painting at the Art Students League of New York and has dealt exclusively with subject matter from the Torah and Jewish history in figurative narratives since 1976. The subjects of his paintings have included:

Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph & Potiphar's Wife, Judah & Tamar, Moses, Exodus, Children of Israel in the Desert, Pinchas, Ruth, David, Ezekiel, Holocaust

In 1991 he was one of the founding members of the American Guild of Judaic Art. Since 2008 he has been active in the Jewish Art Salon in New York City.

He has surveyed the Jewish Arts scene since 2000 in a weekly column in the Jewish Press, also publishing in the Forward, The Jewish Week and JewishIdeasDaily blogsite. Lecturing throughout the country, his artwork is also in many private collections.

His new website; richardmcbee.com, exhibits over 300 of his artworks and at least 225 of his Jewish Art reviews.

EDUCATION

New York University; BA Summa Cum Laude,
Gallatin School 2000 – 2005

Yeshiva University (non-matriculated), New York; 1993 - 1994

Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem, Yeshiva, New York; 1988 – 1992

Art Students League of New York, 1963 – 1967: Jean Liberte &
Edward Melcarth

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

The Sexuality Spectrum – Group Exhibition – Hebrew Union College,
NY – September 2012 – June 2013

Terror: Artist's Respond – Group Exhibition – Dershowitz Center
Gallery at Industry City, Brooklyn, NY, September 2011 – October
2011

Dura Europos Project – Group Exhibition – Philadelphia Museum of
Jewish Art: December 5, 2010 – January 2010

Sarah's Trials – One-person exhibition 16 oil paintings (ea 6' x 5')
JCC Manhattan, August – October 2010 (including 4 panel discussions)

Esther Series – Group Exhibition; Bronfman Center for Jewish – NYU –
September, 2009

Imagining Sinai – Giving the Torah and Coercion – One-person exhibit
– The Sixteenth Street Synagogue – May – September, 2009

Tzelem – Likeness and Presence in Jewish Art – Jewish Art Salon -
Group Exhibition & Panel Discussions – Stanton Street Synagogue –
April 26 – May 17, 2009

Sarah's Trials – One-person exhibition 16 paintings (ea 6' x 5')
Brooklyn College Art Gallery, March – October 2009

God Passes By – One-person exhibition, Chassidic Art Institute,
Brooklyn – January 2009

Scenes from the Bible - Group Exhibition; The Synagogue for the Arts,
New York - September, 2007

Waldsee – 1944; Hebrew Union College Museum, New York, August
2005

Bamidbar: Contemporary Paintings of the Biblical Wilderness
Narrative; 55 Mercer Street Gallery, March 2005

Group Exhibition; Brooklyn Jewish Arts Gallery, Congregation B'nai
Jacob, May 2003

The Biblical Artists Group; Retrospective Group show; 55 Mercer
Street Gallery, September 2000

The Binding of Isaac; Group show; Creighton University, Omaha,
Nebraska & Washington, D.C. National Jewish Museum at B'nai Brith;
Ori Soltes, curator; 1997-1998

Abraham & Isaac; One-person show of 24 paintings derived from
Genesis 22; 1-9; Civic Center Synagogue Gallery; N. Y.; 1996

Halacha and the Graven Image; The Jewish Center, New York. Group
exhibition & slide lecture by Dr. Shalom Sabar (Senior Lecturer, Art
History, Hebrew University, Israel) 1996

Ceremonial Menorah; Shomrim Society, New York Police Department.
1991

International Jewish Festival 1990; Chicago, Illinois

Jewish Crafts in America; Abraham Goodman House, N.Y. 1990

Contemporary Artifacts 1989; National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia, Pa.

International Jewish Festival '89 & '90; New York 1989 1990

Triumph and Faith; One-person show; Sculpture Installation Fifth Avenue Windows and Lobby, 838 Fifth Avenue; Union of American Hebrew Congregations, N.Y. 1988

Menorah Presentation; Office of the Consul General, Israeli Consulate, N.Y. 1986; Reproduced in *Celebration, The Book of Jewish Festivals*, 1987

Artists of the Alliance of Figurative Artists; New York Studio School, N.Y. 1984

Sacred Discontent; Group Show, Gallery 120, N.Y. 1981

Biblical Paintings; One-person show, Gallery 120, N.Y. 1980

Artists in the Biblical Tradition; Hudson Guild Gallery, N.Y., 1979

Biblical and Mythical Themes; 47 Bond Street Gallery, N.Y. 1977

LECTURES

Ruth in Jewish Art: Reality, Devotion and Mystery – PP Lecture at Congregation Adereth El Sisterhood, NY – May, 2013

Esther's Day: Purim in Art – PP Lecture with Rabbi Allen Schwartz at Congregation Ohab Zedek, NY – February 3, 2013; Hebrew Home in Riverdale, March 2012

The Golden Age of Jewish Art: Art and Its Advocates – panel with Ben Schachter, Matthew Baigell & Daniel Schifrin – Association for Jewish Studies – Chicago, Il – December 17, 2012

Jewish Art Primer: PP lectures: Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford, March 2012; Hebrew Home in Riverdale, January 2012; JCC Manhattan October 2010; Trinity College, Hartford, CT, April 2010;

The Rabbis and Uppity Women: (Potiphar's Wife/Joseph and Tamar/Yehuda Narratives); Lecture: 6th Street Community Synagogue, NY, May 2013; JCC Manhattan, May, 2010

Sarah's Trials – PP Lecture on 16 large paintings on the life of Sarah; Temple Shalom, Succasunna, NJ; November 2009; Jewish Art Salon;

December 2008

Women, The Rabbis and Jewish Art – Lecture Series at Arizona State University; February 2008

Why Jews are Afraid of Jewish Art – Panel, Yeshiva University/Stern College Arts Festival; April 2005

Menorahs: Intimate Spaces – Lecture, Congregation Ohab Zedek; December 2004

Visual Discourse as Torah Commentary: Binding of Isaac - Yeshivat Chovevei Torah; November 2004

Three Contemporary Jewish Artists – Lecture at Friedman Society, Jewish Museum; October 2004

The Golden Haggadah - A Preview of Pesach, Lecture examining the meanings and biblical references in a 15th century illuminated Passover manuscript. Cooper Union Student Group; March 1998

Our Lights Through the Ages - Hanukiot - Lecture and survey of three hundred years of Hanukah menorahs. Young Israel of Fifth Avenue; 1997

Rabbis Look at Jewish Art - A slide presentation and dialogue with prominent orthodox Rabbi Allen Schwartz on the issues raised in six works of Jewish Art; Congregation Ohab Zedek - 1997

The Binding of Isaac, Select Visions - Slide lecture. An art historical survey of 40 works of art (Jewish and non-Jewish sources) covering 1800 years of representations of the Binding of Isaac; Congregation Ohab Zedek – 1997

Working with the Akeidah for 15 Years - Slide presentation reviewing 15 years of painting Genesis 22; 1-9, in conjunction with one man exhibition at Civic Center Synagogue Gallery - 1996

Idolatry-Torah's War Against the Image - Slide presentation in conjunction with presentation by Rabbi Richard Borah concerning the prohibition of idolatry as discussed in rabbinic sources; Congregation Ohab Zedek -1996

Jewish Art - Hersey or Decoration - A slide lecture at Jewish Art forum. Young Israel of Fifth Avenue- June 1996

The Tabernacle - Palace of the Forbidden - Cooper Union Student Group; March 1996

PUBLICATIONS

Weekly Column of critical reviews on Jewish Art, The Jewish Press; 2000 – present

Contemporary Jewish Art: An Assessment – essay – Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life, Ruth Weisberg, editor – January 2013

Bezalel's Legacy – Commentary on Exodus 30:11 – CCAR Journal – Winter 2013

Reimagining and Reconfiguring Jewish Art: McBee's Akeida Series by Matthew Baigell: *Ars Judaica*, Bar Ilan University, Spring, 2009

Jewish Art in America by Matthew Baigell; cited p156, illustration 7.4

Picturing God – Chagall's etchings; 'The Bible' - Exhibition review; Jewish Week, August, 1995

ORGANIZATIONS

Jewish Art Salon – founding member; 2008 – present

The American Guild of Judaic Art – founding member; 1991 – 2000

Jewish Art Forum – Lectures at Young Israel of Fifth Avenue and Congregation Ohab Zedek; 1996-1997

Young Israel of Fifth Avenue ; The Sixteenth Street Synagogue; Synagogue President, 1993 - 1995; 1997- 2000; 2005 – 2010; 2011 - 2013

Alliance of Figurative Artists; Educational Alliance, Program Director; 1976-1987.

CURATOR

Dura Europos Project - - (with Joel Silverstein) Jewish Art Salon Exhibition & Panel Discussions – Philadelphia Museum of Jewish Art: December 5, 2010 – March 27, 2011

Seduced by the Sacred - (with Joel Silverstein) Jewish Art Salon Exhibition & Panel Discussions – Mandell JCC Hartford & Charter Oak Cultural Center, Hartford, CT – October 5 – November 22, 2010

Tzelem – Likeness and Presence in Jewish Art – (with Joel Silverstein) Jewish Art Salon Exhibition & Panel Discussions – Stanton Street Synagogue – April 26 – May 17, 2009

Shards Across Time: Holocaust Survivor Art; Brooklyn Jewish Arts
Gallery; 2003