

Richard McBee

682 Broadway, 4C; New York, New York 10012

richardmcbree@gmail.com

richardmcbree.com

RESUME – March 2021

Richard McBee, born in New York City, studied painting at the Art Students League of New York. His subject matter has been drawn from the Bible and Jewish history since 1976. Since 2008 he has focused on the pivotal role of women in Biblical narratives.

The 'Biblical Artists' (Bradford, McBee, Siani, Silberman) mounted numerous exhibitions in the late 1970's and 1980's. In 1996 he exhibited 24 major paintings on "Abraham & Isaac" at the Synagogue for the Arts, New York. In 2010 he exhibited "Sarah's Trials," a series of 16 large paintings on the life of the biblical matriarch, Sarah, at the JCC Manhattan.

McBee was Program Director of the Alliance of Figurative Artists in the 1980's and in 1991 was one of the founding members of the American Guild of Judaic Art. In 2008 he helped found the Jewish Art Salon to promote contemporary Jewish Art through exhibitions and lectures.

He reviewed the Jewish Arts scene from 2000 to 2014 in The Jewish Press and made occasional contributions to the Forward, the Jewish Week, JewishIdeasDaily.com and Mosaicmagazine.com. He is member of the International Association of Art Critics. His artwork has been discussed in Matthew Baigell's "Jewish Art in America" (2006) and "Jewish Identity in American Art" A Golden Age since the 1970's": Chapter Ten (2020) and featured in a full review of his Akeida paintings in Ars Judaica (Vol 5, 2009). He is also featured in "Tradition and Transformation: Three Millennia of Jewish Art and Architecture" by Ori Z. Soltes. McBee continues to exhibit, lecture and curate exhibitions on Jewish Art. His artwork is in many private collections throughout the country. His website; richardmcbree.com, exhibits over 300 of his artworks and 225 of his Jewish Art reviews.

EDUCATION

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

Yeshiva University (audited), 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 GROUP & INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS

The Best of Stanton Street – Feb 2020 – March 2021

Modern Jewish Narratives: Rand/McBee/Silverstein:

Temple Beth Sholom, Roslyn Heights- Dec 2019 –February 2021

Brooklyn Jewish Art Gallery (Congregation Kol Israel) March-April 2019

Akeida Verbs and Others: 47 Paintings by Richard McBee

BEKI – (Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel), New Haven, Conn. Nov 2019 – Jan 2020

Spinoza: Marrano of Reason: Jewish Art Salon: Amsterdam: March 2019

Jerusalem Biennale 2017: Jerusalem Between Heaven and Earth: Sept 2017

Jerusalem Biennale 2015 - Jewish Art Salon Pavilion / Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem – September 2015

Passover and Consequences of Freedom – Brooklyn Jewish Art Gallery (Congregation Kol Israel)

March – June 2016

Relative Narratives: Story of Asenath & Sotah Series (MCBEE) – Derfner Judaica Museum at

Hebrew Home of Riverdale; March – August 2016

New York/New Work - Jewish Art Salon group Exhibition - Mishkan Museum of Art, Ein Harod,

Israel - November 2015 - March 2016

Hebrew Union College Museum, New York, NY: Group Exhibitions

Relative Relations; June 2019 - 2021

Paint By Numbers; September 2016 - June 2017

Evil: A Matter of Intent; September 2015 - June 2016

The Sexuality Spectrum; September 2012 – June 2013 (thereafter traveling)

Waldsee – 1944; August 2005 (thereafter traveling)

Terror: Artist's Respond – Group Exhibition – Dershowitz Center Gallery at Industry City,

Brooklyn, NY, September 2011 – October 2011

Dura Europos Project – Jewish Art Salon Group Exhibition – Philadelphia Museum of Jewish Art:

December, 2010 – March 2011

Sarah's Trials – MCBEE - 16 oil paintings (each 6' x 5') JCC Manhattan, August – October 2010

(including 4 panel discussions)

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

Imagining Sinai – Giving the Torah and Coercion – MCBEE – 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 – MCBEE - 16 paintings (each 6' x 5') Brooklyn College Art Gallery, March – October 2008

God Passes By – MCBEE - Chassidic Art Institute, Brooklyn – January 2009

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

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; MCBEE - 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; Chicago, Illinois; 1990

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

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

International Jewish Festival; 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; MCBEE, 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

Stanton Street Synagogue: Artemisia: Esther and Women; Zoom Lecture; February 2021

Stanton Street Synagogue: 3 Zoom Lectures, Pre-Tisha b'Av; July 2020

**Maus by Art Spiegelman and Lamentations by Mark Podwal;
David Wander's Holocaust Haggadah and Art & Holocaust;
Mourning, Memory and Art, Images of the Destruction of Jerusalem**

Jewish Art Salon Zoom Lecture: Modern Jewish Narratives featuring Archie Rand, Joel Silverstein and Richard McBee: April 2020; jewishartsalon.org

Jewish Identity in American Art (Matthew Baigell); panel; Joel Silverstein, Richard McBee;
The Hampton Synagogue; July 2, 2020

**Artist Beit Midrash – Jewish Art Salon & Community Synagogue Center:
Series of 10 lectures, February – May, 2020; (continued on Zoom); Selections from Jewish Art
History**

Association for Jewish Studies:

Contemporary Jewish Art Organizations: A New Dynamic; with Ruth Weisberg, Yona Verwer,
Douglas Rosenberg, Joel Silverstein, Richard McBee; San Diego Conference Panel; December 17,
2019

Contemporary Artists Exploring Women in Tanach and Talmud; with Vivian Mann, Ben
Schachter, Ruth Weisberg, Matthew Baigell, Richard McBee; Baltimore Conference Roundtable;
December 14, 2014

The Golden Age of Jewish Art: Art and Its Advocates – with Ben Schachter, Matthew Baigell,
Daniel Schifrin, Richard McBee; Chicago Conference Panel; December 17, 2012

Conney Conference: June 12, 2019; Panel discussion; Rand, Silverstein, McBee

The Binding of Isaac: The Art of Rosh Hashanah - Hebrew Home in Riverdale; New York, Bronx,

October 2017

Two Jewish Artists at Work: Examining the Process and Methodologies: Archie Rand and Richard McBee – Moldovan Memorial Symposium – Jewish Museum: March 2016

**Council of Supervisors and Administrators – New York City Teachers Union:
Slide lectures: 2018 – 2020; including The Radical Camera; McBee Studio Tour; Anti-Semitism and Jewish Art; Chagall's Bible; Warhol, Jews and Jesus; The Birth of Jewish Art;
Contemporary Jewish Art**

Hagar the Stranger - PP Lecture: Temple Shalom, Succasunna, NJ – February, 2014

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

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

The Mystery of the Sassoon Torah Shields: Essay exploring three hitherto unrecognized masterpieces of 18th century Jewish Art. MosaicMagazine.com; February 10, 2021

Jewish Identity in American Art: A Golden Age Since the 1970's; Matthew Baigell (2020), Syracuse University Press; Chapter 10; pg. 128 – 139, 8 color illustrations.

Menachem Wecker Blog: Rough Sketch: Are We Living In a Jewish artistic renaissance?
<https://mwecker.substack.com/p/are-we-living-in-a-jewish-artistic> Please contact me for copy of full text.

There's Plenty of Significant Contemporary Jewish Art Hiding in Plain Sight; Essay in response to "Can the Jewish Museum Be Saved) by Menachem Wecker; MosaicMagazine.com; May 24, 2019

Jewish Art, The Jewish Press, Brooklyn, NY; Weekly / Monthly Column: 2000 – 2014

Creativity and the Jewish Soul: Genesis; Parsha essays by Richard Borah; Paintings & Annotations by Richard McBee; 2016

Creativity and the Jewish Soul: The Book of Exodus; Parsha essays by Richard Borah; Paintings & Annotations by Richard McBee; 2017

Tradition and Transformation: Three Millennia of Jewish Art and Architecture; Ori Z. Soltes, MaKoM Publications, 2015

Contemporary Jewish Art – The Challenge – essay – Milin Havivin – Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School – Fall 2014

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; Matthew Baigell; cited p156, illustration 7.4

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

ORGANIZATIONS

Association for Jewish Studies - Professional Membership - 2012 to present

International Association of Art Critics (AICA – Press) 2013 to present

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

Sixth Street Community Synagogue Center - President 2014 to 2017

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

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

CURATOR

Passover and Consequences of Freedom – Brooklyn Jewish Art Gallery (Congregation Kol Israel) March – June 2016

JOMIX - Jewish Comics: Art & Derivation (with Joel Silverstein & Aimee Rubenstein) Philadelphia Museum of Jewish Art - August - November 2015

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

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

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

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