



NYC & the World

Jewish Art Salon

1392 Madison Ave, Box 192
New York NY 10029-6914

<http://jewishartsalon.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Yona Verwer - jas@jewishartsalon.org
Web page: <https://bit.ly/GenesisNYC> High resolution images available.

Jewish Art Salon

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CARAVAN PRESENTS

Genesis: The Beginning of Creativity

An Interfaith, Intercultural, Three Venue Event in New York City, May-June

The Jewish Art Salon has created a radical cultural conversation, positively unique during the anxiety and dissonance of our current era. This exhibition of 125 artworks is a forceful aesthetic statement about unity, positivity, and hope, by creating a decisive new interfaith/intercultural/ visual art exhibition based on the **Creation Narratives**. A meaningful communication has emerged between Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and secular artists as they created works of art reflecting these seminal stories of religious world literature. The exhibition is committed to an inclusive discussion examining the narratives and what they mean to the individual artists and their communities at large at this moment in world history.

The exhibition will feature **TWO PANEL DISCUSSIONS** to explore a selection of the artworks and the underlying creative ideas of Genesis:

- 1) ***The Role of the Feminine in the Secular and the Sacred***. Exploring Genesis' complex ideas concerning contemporary women, including new approaches to spirituality and secular themes. May 11, 6pm at The Interchurch Center.
Panelists: **Siona Benjamin**, [Artist](#); **Grace Bydalek**, Co-Founder, [It is Good: A Festival of Arts + Faith](#), and Director of the Dissident Project; **Afarin Rachmanifar**, [Artist](#), Educator; **Shilpi Chandra**, [Independent Curator](#) and Art Historian; Moderator: **Yona Verwer**, Founding Director Jewish Art Salon, [Artist](#).
- 2) ***The Art of Creation: A Discussion***: The Genesis Narratives seen through the distinct lens of contemporary and progressive Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. June 1, 6pm at the Jewish Theological Seminary.
Panelists: **Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky**, Nathan and Janet Appleman [Professor Emeritus](#) of Midrash and Interreligious Studies at Jewish Theological Seminary; **Daisy Khan**, a Kashmiri-American Islamic campaigner, reformer, and executive director of the [Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality](#) (WISE); **Karenn Gore**, American author, lawyer, and climate activist, founder and executive director of the Center for Earth Ethics at [Union Theological Seminary](#):
Moderator: **Richard McBee**, Curator JAS Genesis, [artist, writer](#).

THREE UNIQUE VENUES:

RIVERSIDE CHURCH, 91 Claremont Avenue, (West 121st Street), New York, NY 10027

Exhibition Dates: May 4-June 30. Hours: 9:00-5:00 pm Monday to Friday.

The exhibition will be closed at this site June 2 - 8 for Church events

Opening Reception: Thursday, May 4, 2023; 5:30 – 7:30pm

RSVP Riverside May 4: <https://genesis-riverside.eventbrite.com>

THE INTERCHURCH CENTER, 61 Claremont Avenue (between West 119th and 120th Street), New York, NY 10115

Exhibition Dates: May 1- June 30; Monday - Friday 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM.

- **Opening Reception: Thursday May 11, 2023; 5 – 7pm**

- **Panel Discussion: 6pm; *The Role of the Feminine in the Secular and the Sacred***

RSVP Interchurch May 11: <https://Genesis-Interchurch.eventbrite.com>

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, 3080 Broadway, (at W 122nd Street) New York, NY

Exhibition Dates: June 1- July 30; Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM -5:00 PM.

- **Opening Reception, Thursday, June 1, 2023, 5-7pm**

- **Panel Discussion; 6pm: *The Art of Creation: A Discussion.***

RSVP JTS June 1: <https://genesis-jts.eventbrite.com>

The exhibition was made possible with additional support from:

The Louis Finkelstein Institute for Religious and Social Studies at JTS , The Interchurch Center Committee on Ecumenical, Interfaith and Community Concerns, and CANVAS.

Artists responded to the Creation narratives in the Book of Genesis 1-4, as well as the Gospel of John 1-3, relevant suras of the Holy Quran, i.e., Sura' Al-Baqarah, Sura' As-Sajdah, Sura' Yassin, Sura Al-A`raf, Sura Ta-Ha and Sura Al-Ma'ida, and pertinent modern and ancient commentaries (i.e., Hadith, Midrash, etc.).

Common to all sources is a fundamental narrative in which God sets into motion a chain of events that begins the creation of the universe and everything in it.

Sacred to all three Abrahamic faiths as a shared cultural heritage, as well as a foundational literary text in much of the world, these texts demonstrate not only how the world was conceived, but how human creativity itself is a generative core of Creation.

Our relationship to these narratives continues to evolve in our own day, maintaining its status as a defining chronicle of both cosmic and individual importance.

The exhibition, offering the works of 125 artists from different faiths and philosophies, celebrates creativity and diversity of imagination. We assert that even in the current era, it is possible to turn our backs on animosity and division and focus on what we share as a world community of creative people.



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A color catalog with nine essays by international scholars, including Steven Fine, S. Brent Rodriguez-Plate, Joel Silverstein, Rachel Kupferman, Susan Chevlowe, Mohammed Ibraheem Ahmed & Dunya Habash, Clare Pearman, Abigail H. Meyer, and Afrain Rahmanifar accompanies the exhibition. Editor: Goldie Gross.

SENIOR CURATORS: Joel Silverstein and Richard McBee

CURATORS: Goldie Gross, Abigail Myers, Susan Maishlish

VENUE ARTISTS (Three Venues)

Sumaira Aamer, Cathy Abbott, Lina Alattar, Linda Altabef, Cheselyn Amato, Jim Antonucci, Michelle Arnold Paine, Siona Benjamin, John Bergmeier, Gabriella Boros, Kateryna Bortsova, Anita Breitenberg, Diane Churchill, Milan Ciric, Alisa Clark, Roz Dimon, Alan Falk, Taiba Faraj, Larry Frankel, Goldie Gross, Abby Harris, Ann Ginsburg Hofkin, Amanda Hallihan, Lori Horowitz, Ioana Lidia Ilea, Shafina Jaffer, Dorit Jordan Dotan, Behnaz Karjoo, Tobi Kahn, Robert Kirschbaum, Elaine Langerman, Samantha Lish, Ma'ayan, Sandra Mack-Valencia, Samar Mansour, Emily Marbach, Mar Martinez, Richard McBee, Kiki McGrath, Skip McKinstry, Sonia McNally, Cynthia Miller, Lisa Miriam, Natan Nuchi, Sarah Nyugen, Quimetta Perle, Yoram Raanan, Afrain Rahmanifar, Archie Rand, Anat Ratzabi, Susan Rippberger, Julia Roberts, Cynthia Beth Rubin, Ruth Schreiber, Joan Myerson Shrager, Joel Silverstein, Seth Spencer, Joe Strickland, Orli Swergold, Gábor Szűcs, Abir Tabbarah, Jason Thomas, Yona Verwer, David Wander, Keiko Yamada.

ONLINE EXHIBITION ARTISTS:

Aamer Sumaira, Cathy Abbott, Lina Alattar, Alaiya Aguilar, Ahmad AlBahrani, Zavi Apfelbaum, Laura Mercedes Arndt, Yehudis Barmatz, Milan Ciric, Manal Deeb, Elizabeth Desherbinin, Pamela Martinez Diaz, Robert Eustace, Taiba Faraj, Harriet Finck, Bruria Finkel, Joe Fisher, Hal Goldberg, Lynn Goldstein, Herbert Grimm, Charlotte Hart, Vincent Hawley, Judith Joseph, Karim Keizer, Karey Kessler, Cindy Kornet, Gordon Lamb, Elizabeth Langer, Inna Linov, Alexandra Mantzara, Rose Marja, Linda Mattar, Leigh Metter, Ruti Modlin, Cynthia Miller, Lisa Miriam, Mary Nash, Myriam O, Lashini Pouran, Rosita Piritore, Yoram Raanan, Ginny Runge, Charles Sherman, Catherine Silver, Judith Rosenthal Sirota, Seth Spencer, Miriam Stern, Heather Stoltz, Tarkanyi-Gottfried Szilard, Anatoli Tarasiuk, Kathy Thaden, Marian Villadsen, Samia Zoghalmi.

ABOUT *The Jewish Art Salon*

The Jewish Art Salon is the world's largest Jewish visual art organization. Established in 2008 and based in New York City, this non-profit is a global network of Jewish contemporary artists, curators, art historians and art writers. Through its exhibitions, events and collaborations in the US, Europe and Israel, JAS provides important programs and resources and develops lasting partnerships with the international art community and the general public. The Jewish Art Salon has organized over 60 [art exhibitions](#), workshops and interactive [events](#) exploring contemporary Jewish themes, related to current issues, and broader societal trends. In the New York area it hosts occasional salon sessions with international artists and scholars. www.jewishartsalon.org

ABOUT CARAVAN “Transformation Through the Arts”

CARAVAN, an international arts NGO/non-profit, is recognized as a global leader in using the arts to further our global quest for a more harmonious future, both with each other and with the earth. CARAVAN's mission is based on the belief that the arts can be one of the most effective mediums to heal our world and to creatively foster peace, harmony, wholeness, and health in all its forms.

CARAVAN enables transformation to take place by creating artistic “encounter points” around the world that bring together those of divergent backgrounds and worldviews to stimulate discussion, dialogue, and education, promoting further understanding, with a vision toward healing our world and creatively fostering peace, harmony, wholeness, and health in all its forms. CARAVAN’s artistic initiatives are held in a wide variety of venues, from traditional art settings, such as museums and galleries, to heavily trafficked “sacred spaces” and renowned public spaces, with the goal of taking their transformational message beyond the traditional “art circles” and maximizing viewership and participation from the widest possible demographic. www.oncaravan.org

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