

Asherah Cinnamon www.asherahcinnamon.com

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My practice as sculptor, installation/performance artist, group facilitator, and teaching artist explores:

- 1) war, genocide, immigration, anti-Semitism, racism, male domination/ sexism, LGBTQ+ rights, and economic inequity,
- 2) the role of celebration, social justice activism, and cultural ritual in building community,
- 3) emotional healing and strength,
- 4) environment and reconnection to the natural world.

I work primarily with sustainably & locally harvested natural materials, and found or recycled fiber and objects.

Exhibitions, Public Art Projects, Performance Art

- 2024 **Vessel**, group exhibit, **Cultural Center**, Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga, TN.
Jan. 8 - Feb. 23
- 2023 **From Branch to Midrash**, solo exhibition **Parsonage Gallery**, Sept. 23 - Oct. 22,
collaborative outdoor installation with Rosalba Breazeale thru Dec. 3, Searsport, ME
The Hagaddah Project, Collaborative Group Exhibition at Maine Conference for Jewish Life (June) and
Congregation Bet'Ha'am (March)
- 2020 **Woven Together**, juried group exhibition at **Engine Gallery**, Biddeford, Maine
- 2019 **University of New England Gallery** Invitational Sculpture Garden exhibit, June through October
Maine College of Art, Alumni Artist in Residence, Individual Public Installation and open studios
- 2018 **Maine State Museum: Dwelling Place**, interactive public art installation & *sukkah*.
Installed in the Entrance Atrium, welcoming visitors to the first ever exhibition on the **History of Jews In
Maine**.
Univ. of New England Gallery, Portland Invitational Sculpture Garden Exhibition, June – October
- 2017 **SukkahWood**, Juried Interactive Public Art, curator Goldie Gross, Inwood Park, Manhattan, NY
Women's Body/Women's Mind, interactive public art installation, UNE Gallery. January through March
- 2016 **University of Southern California Hillel Gallery**, Juried Group, Los Angeles, Calif. Sept - Dec
University Of New England Gallery, Invitational group Sculpture Garden Exhibition, June – October
Women's Body/Women's Mind, interactive public art installation, Art Kibbutz New York: International
Jewish Artist's Colony, Governor's Island, NY, NY, June
Dwelling Place, solo interactive public art installation and *sukkah*, Maine College of Art, October
- 2015 **Sacrifice**, London Jewish Museum, King's College, England, Invitational group exhibition Sept '15–Jan '16
ECOArt, Muong Cultural Museum, Hoa Binh, Vietnam, November 2015 through 2016
Maine Synagogues, Invitational group exhibition, Maine Jewish Museum. May to July
- 2014 **The Jewish Dance with Planet Earth**. Juried international group exhibition, Colonel's Row, Building
406A, Governor's Island, New York, NY
Sukkah PDX, Juried international exhibition of 6 outdoor installations, Oregon Jewish Museum, Portland,
Oregon
- 2013 **Celebration, Tradition, and Change**. Solo Exhibition, Maine Jewish Museum *Shema*: Listen.
Collaborative sculpture, with performance/community-building event. Eden Village Lake, New York
- 2012 **JUMP:War**, interactive collaborative public art performances. Clifford Gallery & Main St, Belfast, ME
Dwelling Place interactive public art installation & *sukkah*, University of New England Gallery
- 2011 **Pay It Forward** solo interactive installation, Modern Woodmen of America, Standish Maine
Dwelling Place solo interactive public art installation and *sukkah*, University of Southern Maine
Love Affair with Trees, incl. **Friendship In Hard Times II**, solo exhibition, Engine, Biddeford, ME
- 2010 **Friendship in Hard Times**, solo public art project with Fred Hall Elementary School, Baxter School for
the Deaf, and Bonnie Eagle High School, Southern Maine
Separation Connection, MECA alumni collaborative, contemporary performance art, Portland, Maine
- 2009 **The Spirit of Trees** retrospective solo exhibit, Temple Shalom Synagogue and Center, Auburn, Maine
- 2008 **Olympic Sculpture Exhibition** Tiananmen Square, 2008 Beijing Olympics, China
Tradition and Transformation juried group show: Beth Shadur, juror, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago
Institute of Contemporary Art, "Index" juried exhibition, Portland Maine
- 2007 **Olympic Landscape Sculpture International Exhibition of Finalists** juried group.
Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento, CA; Lawson Field Theater, Gisborne, New Zealand; Sports
Center, Rome, Italy; China Millennium Monument, Beijing, China; Hong Kong Park, Hong Kong; Olympic
Museum Park, Lausanne, Switzerland; Sport and Olympic Museum, Barcelona, Spain
Teshuvah: Turn and Mend solo interactive public art installation, Post Office Park, Portland, ME
Kaddish for the Dispossessed solo public art installation, City of Portland, ME
- 2006 **Beijing Olympic Landscape Sculpture Contest Chinese Exhibition** juried group. Jintai

Museum, Beijing; Guangzhou Museum of Art, Guangzhou; Dongfanghong Square, Lanzhou, Gansu Province; Changchun World Sculptures Park, Changchun; Wuyuanwan Feature Street Plaza, Xiamen; Tianjin Square, Tianjin, China

Selected Guest Lectures, Workshops, Forums, Residencies, Work projects

- 2023 Artists' talks, with 5 collaborating artists, at two **Hagaddah Project** exhibitions: Maine Conference for Jewish Life, Thomas College, Waterville, ME and Congregation Bet Ha'am, South Portland ME. June and March respectively
- 2021 Leader and organizer for two monthly online artist groups to support the artistic process during Covid 19. Ongoing since May of 2020: one is for a diverse group of International artists, and the other is supported by Art Kibbutz specifically for International Jewish artists members.
- 2020 **Jewish Art Salon** Artist talk online December 15. Recorded and available on JAS Facebook or website **Engine Gallery** online Artist talk
Leader and organizer for two monthly online artist groups to support the artistic process during Covid 19. Ongoing since May of 2020: one is for a diverse group of International artists, and the other is supported by Art Kibbutz specifically for International Jewish artists members.
- 2019 **Making Art About Ending War and Genocide**, 5-Day Invitational Residency, Limington, Maine. August, Funded in part by The Maine Arts Commission and Indo-China Arts Partnership.
Alumni Residency, Maine College of Art, Portland, Maine July
Artist in Residence, Camp MoyMoDaYo, Limington, Maine
- 2018 **Making Art About Ending War and Genocide**, 3-Day Invitational Residency, Limington, Maine. August
Art Kibbutz NY, Program Director for **International Artist Residency** in upstate NY, June
- 2016 **Art Kibbutz New York**, Art and Social Justice Residency, Governor's Island, including guest workshop on women's issues for artists, funded in part by the NY Women's Foundation, June
Artists Wielding Words and Images: Art as Social Change Agent, University of So. Maine, April
Jewish Community Alliance of Maine, Workshop on Creativity and *Schmita*, June
- 2015 **Muong Studio** Collaborative contemporary art juried residency and ECOArt Project, Vietnam, Nov
Art Kibbutz New York, *Schmita* Festival and juried residency, Governor's Island, NY, July/Aug
Maine Conference for Jewish Life, presentations on creativity, June
- 2014 **EMMA International Collaboration** juried residency, Ness Creek, Canada.
- 2013 **Art Kibbutz New York**, International juried residency: "the Jewish Waltz with Planet Earth"
- 2012 "Finding Voice as a Visual Artist", Sculpture Department visiting artist, **Maine College of Art**
- 2011 **Inter-Professional Educational Collaborative University of New England**, "Healing Arts and Creative Spaces for Emotional Renewal"
International Affairs Conference, visual artist in residence
- 2009 **National Association of Social Workers**, Keynote Address, Maine Chapter Annual Conference
- 2008 **Institute of Contemporary Art**, "Index" Juried Exhibition artist talk, Portland Maine
- 2007 **Congregation Bet Ha'am**, "*Shabbat Shuvah*: art and the tradition of mending relationships", Maine
University Of Southern Maine, "Spiritual responses in the visual arts to poverty and homelessness"
Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland, Maine, Public Forum in association with solo public art project of the same name. "Kaddish for the Dispossessed: A Call to Economic Justice", connecting the arts and social justice communities in the active pursuit of economic justice to end homelessness.

Selected Awards, Grants, Media, and Publications

- 2023 **Maine Sunday Telegram**, "Artists Reach Back in Time to Express Contemporary Ideas", Jorge S. Arango, October 1, 2023
- 2022 **Modern Judaica: Today's Makers, Today's Sacred Objects** (255 pages of color photos of work and interviews with 52 Contemporary Jewish artists working from 1930 to the present in 6 countries), by Jim Cohen. See Cinnamon pp 46-49, Schiffer Publishing, Atglen, PA
- 2021 **American Guild of Judaic Art** Working Artist Grant (one of 6), for supplies and equipment to learn the use of Encaustic methods and materials to begin a new project.
- 2019 **Indo-China Arts Partnership Project Grant**
Maine Arts Commission Individual Artist Project Grant
Maine College of Art Alumni Residency
- 2017 **SukkahWood**, Juried Award, New York, NY
- 2016 **Portland Magazine, 3D Artists**: featuring 30 of Maine's, Annual Art issue, September/October
Jewish Women's Foundation of New York Fellowship for Art Kibbutz New York Residency and teaching
- 2015 **Linda and Joel Abromson Fund Award**, funding for Schmita Project and Art Kibbutz NY Residency

- 2014 **The Oregonian**, October 10. "Big Ideas In Tiny Spaces". Review of juried exhibition
Haddasah Magazine, January. "The Arts: United (Jewish) Artists", by Aaron Rosen
 Emma International artist residency, **Maine College of Art grant award**
- 2013 **Daily Forward**, "Art Kibbutz Bears First Fruits" by Rebecca Schischa, May 17
<http://www.artkibbutz.org/environmentalland-art-residency>
<http://www.healingwiththearts.com/?s=asherah+cinnamon>
- 2011 **Linda and Joel Abromson Fund Award**, funding for "Dwelling Place" installation
 2009 **Juror's Choice Award**, Maine Art Gallery, Wiscasset, Maine
- 2008 **Beijing 2008 Olympic Landscape Sculpture Competition, Five Rings Prize**, with Scott Fuller
 Maine State Campus Compact, "**Heart and Soul Award**"
- 2004 "Community Organizing for Social Change", By Asherah Cinnamon, Essay printed in Linda May Grobman,
 Editor, **Days in the Lives of Social Workers**. White Hat Communications.

Education

BFA: Sculpture, Maine College of Art, Portland, Maine, USA
 MSW: Group Work, Boston University School of Social Work, Boston, Massachusetts, USA and LCSW, Maine
 University of Maine, Orono, Graduate study in Psychology, and Licensed Psychological Examiner, Maine
 Graduate Diploma (= MS in USA) in Criminology: Cambridge University, Cambridge, England
 BA and graduate study: University of Wisconsin at Madison: Philosophy, Ethics, Constitutional & Civil Rights Law

Selected Professional & Community Contributions:

Jewish Art Salon, Fellow
American Guild of Judaic Art, Member
Maine State Democratic Party, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee, Member since 2022
Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine, Community Relations Council, Member since 2016
Maine Arts Commission, artist listing 2009-present, and Teaching Artist certified
Art Kibbutz: International Artist Residencies, Advisory Board, then Board of Directors 2014-2019
Maine College of Art: Community Building Award 2008 and Alumni Counsel member 2009-2018
Hakhel International, Creative Communities Subgroup, Member 2017-2019
Hillel of Southern Maine, Chair 2012-2019
New England United Methodist Conference Award for Social Justice Actions
US Holocaust Museum Education Department, recognized for organizing community response to the racist
 destruction by arson of an African American Church, Knoxville, TN
National Coalition Building Institute International Board, Member