

LEGACY 2025 EDUCATIONAL GUIDE



Sidewalk Troubadour by Yetta Bornstein, from the Collection of B. Minette Cooper (Jewish Culture and Values)

LEGACY 2025 showcases the artworks of twenty Jewish artists from Hampton Roads. The exhibition is presented by Jewish Visual Arts, a committee of the Jewish Museum and Cultural Center, in collaboration with the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater. It raises awareness of the range of creative and technical skills that have long existed in our region.

Selected by committee, the artworks reflect four major themes: Torah, Jewish Culture and Values, Contemporary Aesthetics, and Personal Expression. This educational guide illuminates each theme, encouraging visitors to reflect on their own experiences while engaging with the artworks.

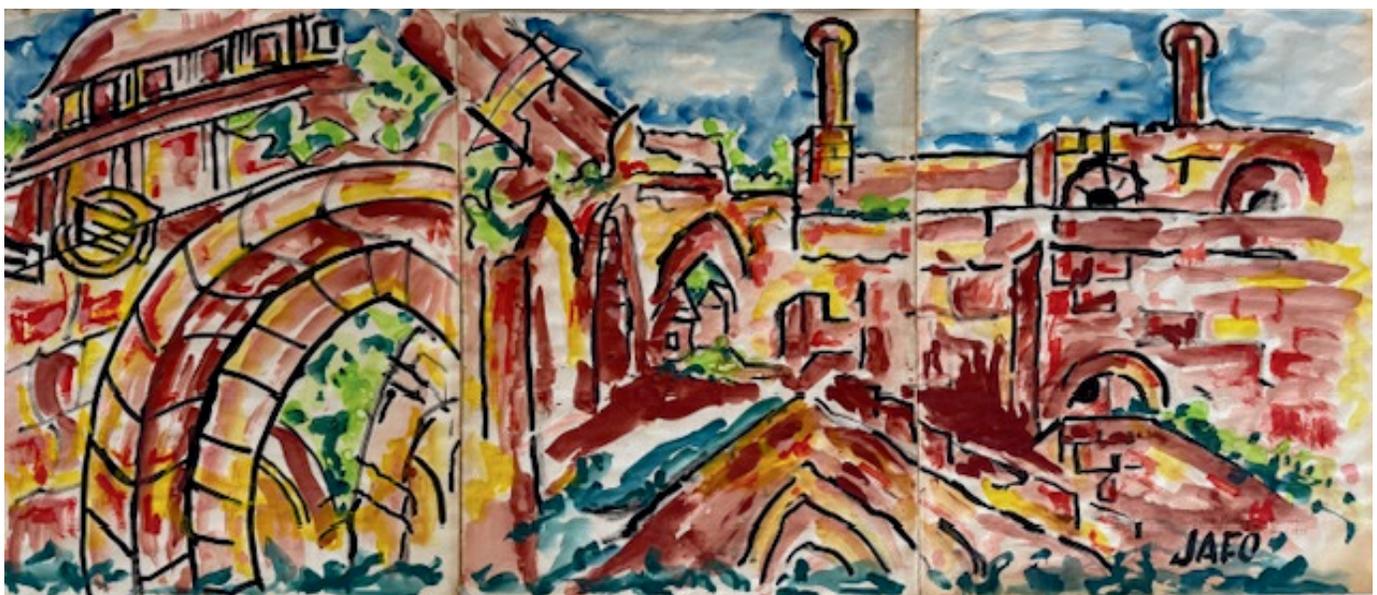
Simon Family Jewish Community Center
5000 Corporate Woods Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23462
December 7, 2025 to January 12, 2026

TORAH

Torah is the foundational text of Judaism, consisting of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy). It contains narratives, laws, ethics, and spiritual teachings and is central to Jewish life. Read regularly in synagogues, studied deeply in religious and academic contexts, and interpreted through layers of commentary, Torah is a pillar of Jewish identity and the Jewish experience.

Reflective Questions:

- *Can you identify which artworks in the exhibition reflect Torah? What visual information conveys the theme of Torah?*
- *Torah contains many stories that offer life lessons. Those stories have been passed down through the ages to guide new generations. What stories were passed down to you and have shaped or guided your life?*
- *Torah is ancient as well as modern. Jewish tradition states that Moses received the Torah from God around 3,500 years ago. Modern scholarship suggests the Torah was compiled in its current form about 2,500 years ago. How can ancient texts connect with and inform contemporary life? Jews continue studying the Torah regularly in attempts to respond to that very question.*



Jafo by Sylvia Shliom (Jewish Culture & Values)

JEWISH CULTURE AND VALUES

Jewish culture encompasses the diverse traditions of the Jewish people. Jewish culture shapes Jewish identity through rituals (including Shabbat and major holidays), language (Hebrew and Yiddish), food (such as apples and honey for Rosh Hashanah), music (including the Shofar, chant, and klezmer), and shared historical experiences (such as exile and resilience).

Those cultural elements have shaped some core Jewish values, including:

- Tikkun Olam (repairing the world)
- Chesed (kindness)
- Tzedakah (charity and justice, though it means righteousness)
- Kavod (respect)
- Limmud Torah (study of sacred texts)
- L'dor v'Dor (from generation to generation)

Reflective Questions:

- *What cultural traditions help you feel connected to others?*
- *How do values like justice or kindness show up in your life and community?*
- *What do you do to help repair the world?*

CONTEMPORARY AESTHETICS

Contemporary aesthetics refers to modern perspectives of art, beauty, and design. Those perspectives value subjective experience and celebrate unconventional forms and techniques. Some key ideas of contemporary aesthetics include:

- art that emphasizes concepts and meanings over clearly defined form
- the use of diverse media and materials
- the influence of interdisciplinary themes (such as philosophy, history, and social sciences)
- the inclusion of personal and social issues

Reflective Questions:

- *What works use contemporary aesthetics? How can you tell?*
- *What type of art do you find beautiful or engaging? Why?*
- *Should all art be “traditionally” beautiful?*
- *How can art challenge or change perspectives?*

PERSONAL EXPRESSION

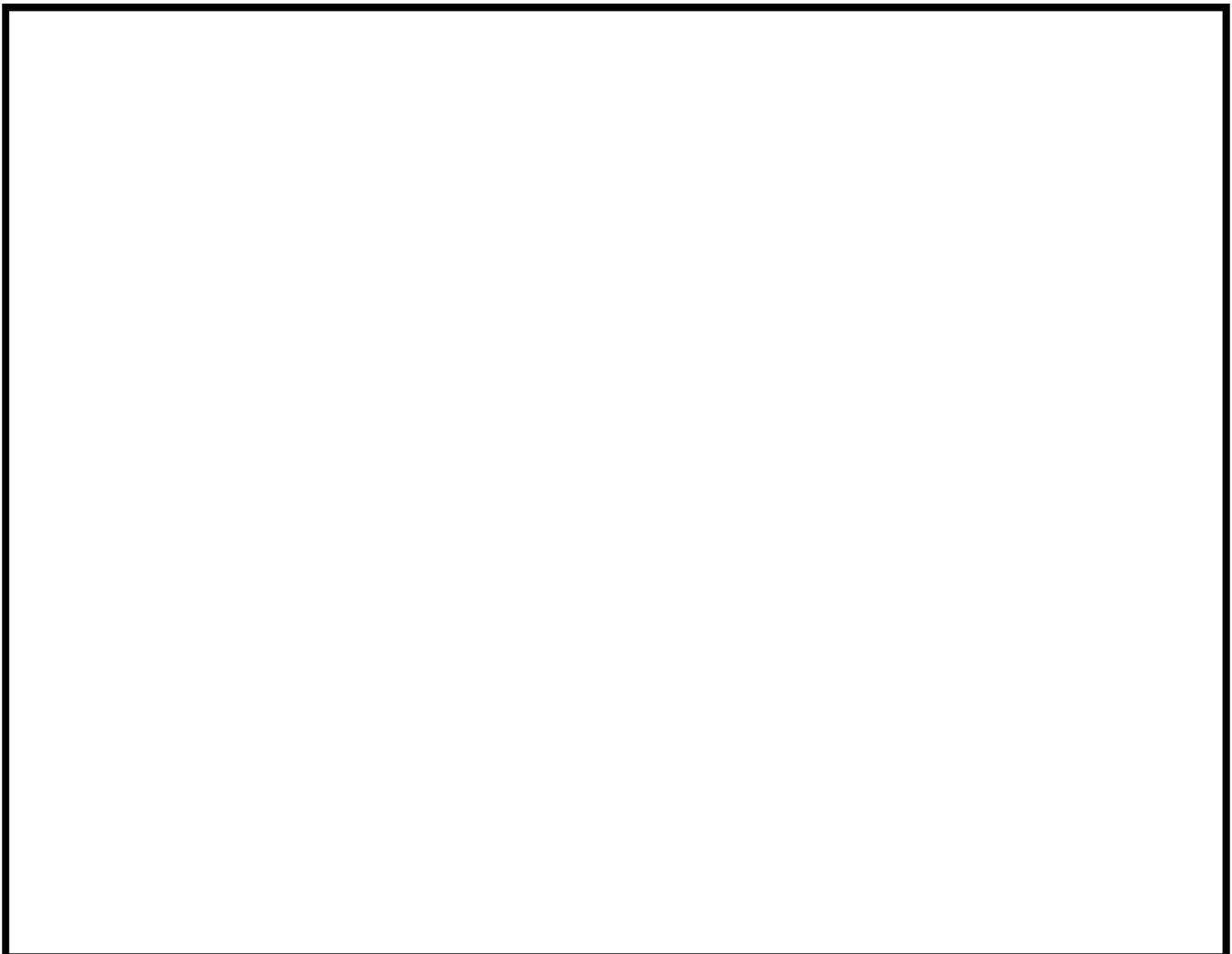
Personal expression is how a person shares their thoughts, emotions, beliefs, or experiences. Visual art has long been an effective means of personal expression, but people express themselves through many methods, including language, fashion, music, and writing.

Reflective Questions:

- *Notice the different ways the artists have expressed their ideas or experiences. Do any resonate with you? Are any unfamiliar?*
- *How do you choose to express yourself?*

Activity.

Create a self-portrait below that reveals your experience exploring the exhibition.
(You can find supplies on a table at the exhibition entrance)



2025 Visual Arts Donor Categories

UP TO \$99

Christina Byrdsong

Liz Zetlin

Rabbi Israel & Jennifer Zoberman

\$100 up to \$499

21st Street Gallery

Anonymous

Jack Frieden

Harry Graber

Hartung Gallery & Art Supplies

Dee Hawley

Cat Lineberry

Adam Lichtman

Blanche Nusbaum

Robert & Miriam Palmer

Dale Parks

Shelly Parks

Stuart Parks

Meredith Rose

Ken & Marilyn Siegel

\$500 UP TO \$999

Candace Altschul

David Leon

Miles Leon

Stephen Leon

Susan Margolius

Pincus Family

Steve & Karen Plotnick

Joan Rose

\$1,000 AND ABOVE

Drucker + Falk

Fink-Simon Families

Janet Glasofer

Jewish Art Education

Ed Lazon

Rick Rivin



United Jewish
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