



YOCAGMFL

2025

# HAMPTON ROADS JEWISH ARTISTS OF THE PAST

---

It has been said that we die twice... once when our earthly bodies depart and once more when our persona, spirit, energy, and essence are no longer remembered.



# LEGACY 2025

## ARTWORKS IN FOUR BIG IDEAS

### TORAH

Linda Gissen	Star of David (32), Rachel Weeping for Her Children (38)
Yetta Bornstein	Rabbi with Shofar (33)
Vic Pickett	Sh'ma (35)
Elliot Bernstein	Moses (36), Menorah (42)
Wilbur Chadwick	Rabbi with Torah (49)
Arlene Kesser	Twelve Tribes (52 - located in the Cardo, downstairs)

### JEWISH CULTURE & VALUES

Edna Sara Lazon	It's Time for Peace (20)
Sarah Deyong	A Sweet New Year (20)
Sylvia Shliom	Jafo (46)

### CONTEMPORARY AESTHETICS

Telsa Leon	Untitled (2, 30, 31)
Louis Morewitz	Homes Within Square (13), Town Within Circle (14)
Laszlo Aranyi	Untitled (37), Cityscape (39)
R. Greta Jager	Summertime (40)
Elise Simon	Vessel (41)
Fay Zetlin	Untitled (45, 47, 48)

### PERSONAL EXPRESSION

Reitha Sedel	Untitled (1, 3, 50)
Ruth Rose	Untitled (6, 10, 46)
Elsa Gerst	Reclining Figure (7), Charleston (11), Flowers (43)
Inger Pincus	Sky Fences (12), Reine III (18), Untitled (26)
Stan Glasofer	Untitled (22), Untitled (23), Lake Maury in Spring (24)
Ruth Unger	Untitled (28)



# #1

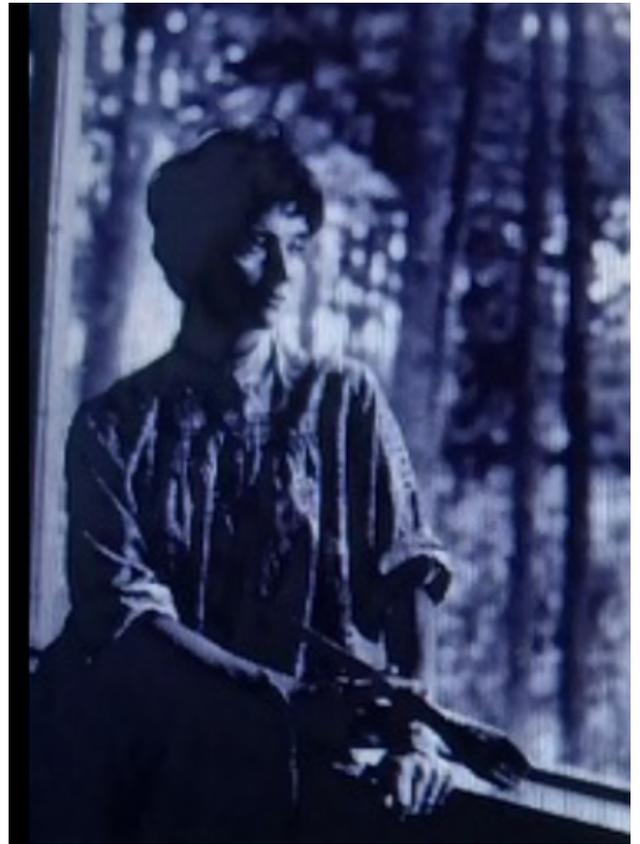
## Untitled 2

# REITHA SEDEL

(Also see works 3 & 50)

1918-1991

Reitha Fivel Sedel was born in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1918 and was the youngest of seven children. Growing up in the Ghent section of Norfolk, she graduated from Maury High School where she was recognized for her youthful talent and numerous achievements in fine art and knowledge of art history. Following high school she attended the Maryland Institute of Art, studying under resident artist Leon Kroll, and graduated with honors receiving the Baltimore Arts Society Award.



In 1942 she married Dr. Norman G. Sedel and moved her family to Virginia Beach in 1952. At that time she became one of the founding members of both the Virginia Beach Art Association and Tidewater Artists. The Virginia Beach Art Association, with the diligent work and dedication of such visionaries as Reitha Sedel, evolved over a 40-year period into the state-of-the-art complex now known as the Virginia Beach Center for the Arts.

During her over 40 years of involvement in the visual arts, Reitha Sedel taught and studied with such contemporaries as Charles Sibley, Alfred Khouri, Kenneth Harris, A.B. Jackson, Greta Matson, Yetta Bornstein, and Walter Thrift. She was also a published writer of poetry, prose and short stories which became an intricate extension of her paintings.

Reitha Sedel's work has been shown at the Chrysler Museum, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Virginia Beach Center for the Arts, D'Art Center, the Boardwalk Art Show, and is in many private collections throughout the southeast.



# #2

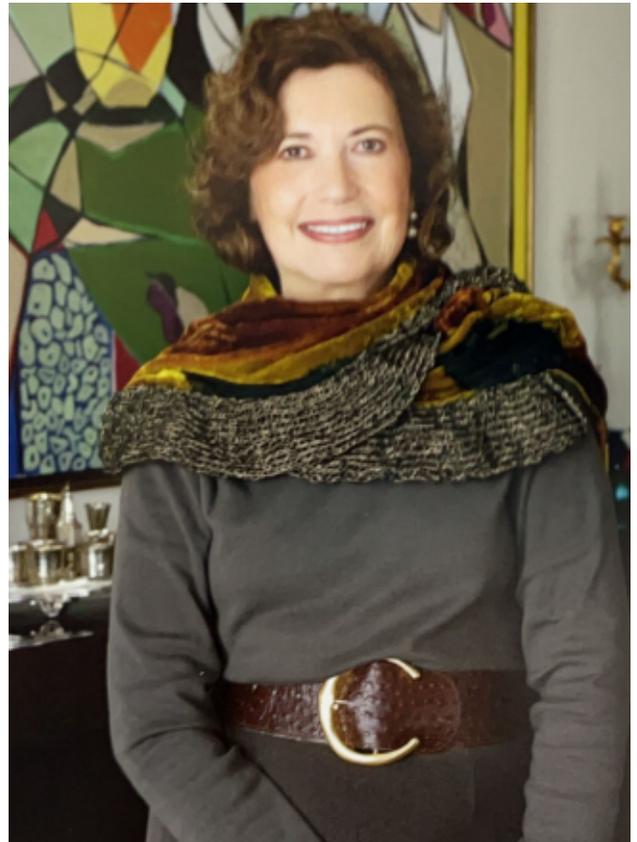
# Untitled

# TELSA LEON

*(Also see works 30 & 31)*

1935-2011

Telsa Learman Leon, was born on March 11, 1935 in Brooklyn, NY and moved to Norfolk, VA as an infant. She attended Taylor Elementary, Blair Middle, and graduated from Maury High School in 1953. She attended Simmons College in Boston and graduated magna cum laude with a BA in Studio Art from Old Dominion University in 1978 where she took classes with Charles Sibley and others. Telsa has been a participant in numerous juried shows, including the 30th Irene Leache Memorial Exhibition at The Chrysler Museum in 1990. One of her paintings hangs in the permanent collection in the Law School at the University of Virginia and another at the Simon Family JCC in Virginia Beach.



She was committed to the Jewish community at home and worldwide and served in many leadership positions in the Tidewater Jewish community. After visiting Israel for the first time in 1965, she devoted much of her spare time raising money for the local Jewish Federation and Israel. She was instrumental in establishing the Holocaust Commission of the UJFT and its programs to help teach tolerance amongst all peoples. She died in Virginia Beach, VA on September 4, 2011.

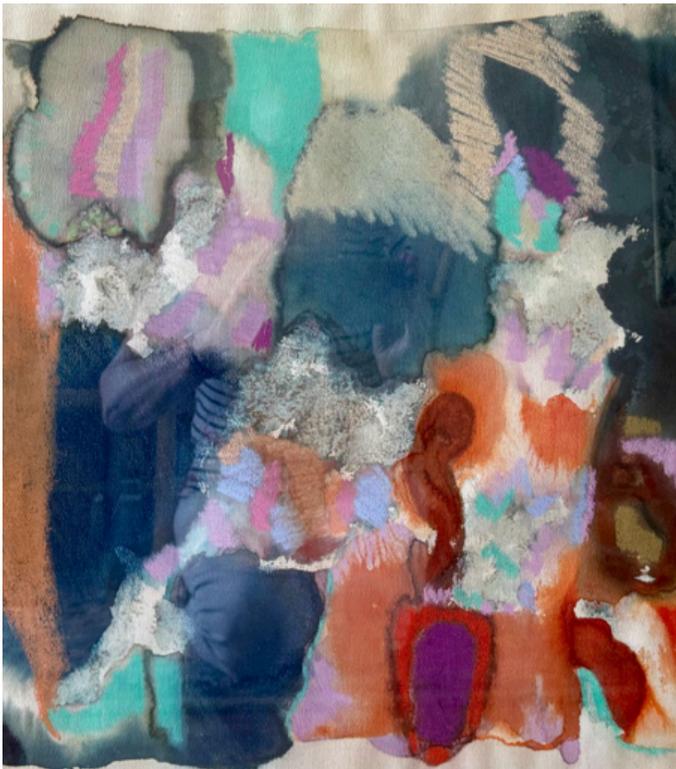


#3

*Untitled 3*

**REITHA  
SEDEL**

Bio on Page 4  
(Also see works 1 & 50)



## #4 *Ashes of Her*

# ARLENE KESSER

*(Also see works 44 & 52- downstairs in Cardo)*



1936-2020

Arlene Berman Kesser, (1936-2020) was the youngest daughter born to Frieda Cohen Berman Amelson and Leonard Berman in Norfolk, VA. Arlene graduated from Maury High School, studied art at George Washington University and completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979 at Old Dominion University.

Arlene grew up and was confirmed and married (Howard Kesser) at Beth El Temple. She and her husband later joined Ohef Sholom Temple. Arlene's Jewish roots ran deep. She was a member of Sisterhood, Hadassah, ORT, and the Hebrew Ladies Charity Society. Arlene was most proud that Jewish Family Service chose her painting, "The Tree of Life" to be the cover of their donation card. She was also a member of the Tidewater Artists Association, the Virginia Beach Artists Association, the Chrysler Museum and the Virginia Museum.

Arlene entered her art in several shows throughout Virginia including The Irene Leache Memorial Exhibition, D'Art Artist Association Show, The First and Second Jewish Arts Festival, as well as The Boardwalk Art Show where she earned First Prize for Mixed Media. Her art work is part of permanent collections at Phillip Morris, Inc., U.S.Credit Corporation, Jewish Family Service of Tidewater and The Chrysler Museum.

Arlene loved to express her artistic talents in many ways - through her painting, Lucite, wood and metal sculptures, floral arrangements and especially cooking. She would say that her best work was her family, her husband Howard, her daughters, Sharon and Laura, her grandchildren, Jodi, Danny and Kevin and her great-grandchildren, Jack, Sean, Harrison and Emma.



# #5

*Untitled*

# SYLVIA SHLIOM

*(Also see works 10 & 46)*

1911-1996

Sylvia Moskowitz Shliom was raised in Strawberry Mansion Philadelphia and was sent to art school by her siblings and attended the Academy of art. A prolific artist despite polio as a child which left her mostly one handed with her preferred water colors but also dabbling in other media. She excelled at portraits, live model painting and cityscapes, especially Greenwich village where she lived for many years. a self-proclaimed colorist.

Sylvia spent summers in Paris with artists and Yiddish writers and she exhibited in Paris and New York.





# #6

*Untitled*

# RUTH ROSE

1922-2001

Ruth Rose was raised in Strawberry Mansion Philadelphia. She had a talent for art early with many notebook drawings. She lived many places including Puerto Rico, Europe, Northern Virginia and Virginia Beach.

While raising six children, Ruth was a head bank teller and had many other jobs over the years, including school secretary in Europe, synagogue secretary at Beth El, Alexandria, and also driving carpools to Hebrew school and obtaining an Associates Arts degree from George Mason University.

Her media includes watercolor, acrylics and multimedia. She was a member of Nelly's Needlers. She was a docent at the Museum of Natural History and the Philip Small museum in Washington, DC.

My mother's first contact with Hampton roads was working with Rose Jaffe through Hadassah.





# #7 *Reclining Figure*

c.1970s

## ELSA GERST

*(Also see works 11 & 43)*

1900-1976

Elsa Gerst was born and bred in Richmond, VA and moved to Norfolk after her marriage to Herbert Gerst. She is a graduate of William and Mary College and Richmond Professional Institute, having also attended Westhampton College. Her first artistic success was arranging flowers from her extensive garden.

Left handed, she grew up writing with her right hand to please her teachers. In the late 1940s, at the urging of her daughter Edna Sara Lazon, she began painting and drawing, using her left hand, developing a unique and creative style. In the 1960s she took up painting acrylic on canvas as well as continuing to draw, paint in watercolors and make collages.

Her work was shown in local juried and regional shows as well as private galleries. Circa 1970, she won Best in Show in the Irene Leach Juried Exhibit. Everyone was surprised at her age and the youthful exuberance of her painting.



# #8 *Everyday Portugal*

c.1980s, mixed media on canvas, 32" x 42"

## EDNA SARA LAZARON

*(Also see works 15 & 29)*



Photo by Ilse Spivak, 1960s

1924-2007

A lifelong resident of Norfolk, Edna Sara Gerst Lazaron was a graduate of Maury High School and Stephens College. She also attended the Parsons School of Design, but returned to Norfolk with her husband Mike Lazaron to raise their family. She exhibited regionally, nationally, and internationally. Her work is owned by private, corporate, and museum collections.

She was an inspiring art teacher for more than 30 years, leading a sketch group at the Hermitage Foundation and teaching high school students in her studio.

She began as a painter, took up ceramics in the 1960s and made multi media artist books and wall hangings from the 1990s onward. The latter often addressing human rights, the environment and other social issues that inspired her. She carried her sketchbook wherever she went and traveled extensively.

Making art was her passion and she loved sharing it with everyone.



# #9

# Untitled

40" x 32"

# ELISE SIMON

*(Also see work 41)*

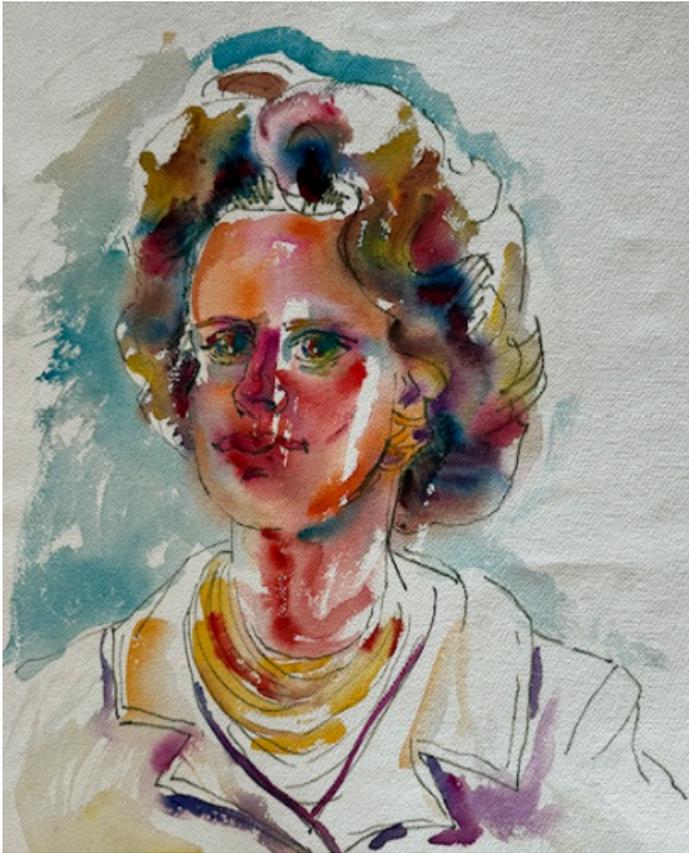


1933-2002

Whether before a canvas, elbow deep in clay, behind a camera or living a dramatic role on stage, acclaimed artist, sculptor, photographer and actress Elise Melnick Simon immersed herself in art and lived her artistry. Brooklyn born, Simon became a name in the art scene after marrying and moving to Tidewater. Often headlining in the then Ledger Star newspaper, her works found their way to the Chrysler Museum and beyond. Homes throughout the region had an Elise Simon canvas hanging or a clay sculpture perched on a pedestal.

Working in oil on canvas, the essence of her work splashes in abstraction capturing landscapes in full bloom. The geometry of shapes replicate as if dream invented, creating movement that bring an arrangement – be it of forest leaves, fiery cut flowers or mountaintop ridges – to life in a flow of brushstrokes working color into light.

Born in 1933 and until her passing in 2002 at the age of 69, Elise Melnick Simon invented and reinvented herself throughout her life daring to defy boundaries and expectations not only as an artist, but as a woman coming into her own in the early 1960s. An iconic sight sporting about in her MG convertible with the steering on the right, hair cut scandalously short, Elise showed up on college campus protests and got teachers to let her read poetry to students outside under playground trees – no small feat considering the public schools circa 60s! Elise's prolific pour of art exemplified her very nature – an artist to her core.



#10

*Ruthie*

1961, 20" x 28"

**SYLVIA  
SHLIOM**

Bio on page 8

(Also see works 5 & 46)

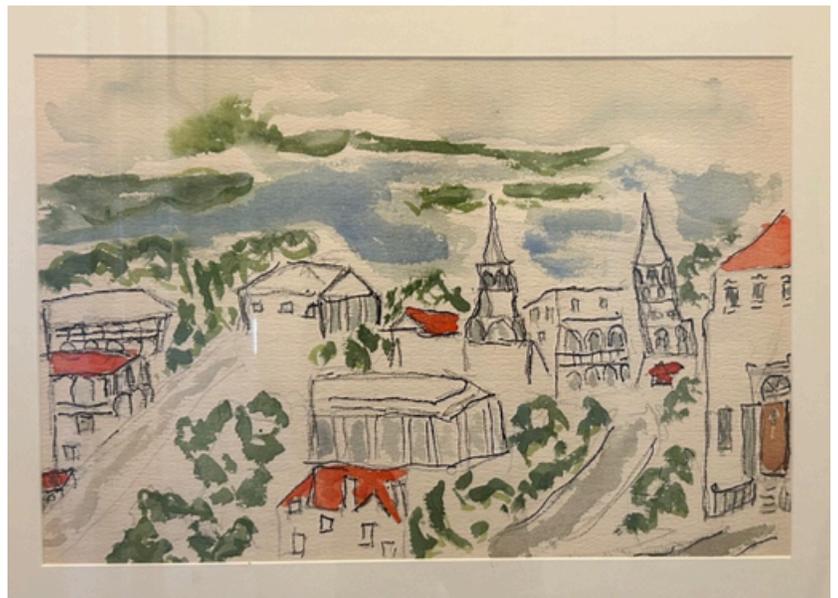
#11 *Charleston*

c. 1970's

**ELSA  
GERST**

Bio on page 10

(Also see works 7 & 43)





# #12 *Sky Fences*

11" x 14"

## INGER PINCUS

*(Also see works 18, 26, & 27)*

1928-2023

Inger B Pincus was a life-long artist. She was driven by a creative energy and inquisitive mind that was expressed in her artwork. She saw her surroundings through the lens of an artist, where everyday objects were exciting compositions of color, shape, light and contrast. Her art encompassed a variety of mediums including drawing, painting, print making, ceramics and sculpture.

Born and raised in Norway, Inger developed a love for nature and the outdoors, and an interest in art at an early age. She studied art in London, Copenhagen and Paris and received a Degree in Design and Handprinting of Fabric. While in Paris, working as a fabric designer, she met her future husband, Harry Pincus, which led to her to move to Norfolk.

Inger began studying ceramics and sculpture at the Norfolk Museum Art School and the Selden House Studios in the 1960's, where she met the local community of artists, many of whom became lifelong friends. She continued her study of art at Old Dominion University, earning a Bachelor's and Master's Degree of Fine Arts in the 1980's. Inger thoroughly enjoyed the creative process and interaction with other artists, students and professors alike. She went on to teach sculpture art at Old Dominion University and Norfolk State University. In the 1990's Inger began experimenting with various techniques of Intaglio printmaking, including engraving, etching and aquatint. She combined these different techniques, using multiple plates and ink colors to create unique compositions and effects.

Her sculptures symbolized the systems we live in, with contrasting parts working through tension to create balance and unity. She constructed these systems by curving pieces of wood and steel, and tying the tensioned members together with string, wire, or bolts to create a statically balanced system. The subjects of many of her prints were landscapes, structures and birds reflecting her Norwegian roots.



# #13 *Homes within Square*

Louis Morewitz

## LOUIS MOREWITZ

(Also see works 14 & 19)



1910-1981

Louis Morewitz was born in Newport News, VA on July 15, 1910, attended Newport News High School, and the University of Richmond. From 1945 until his passing in 1981, he owned and operated Greenspon Furniture, which was established in 1901 by his father-in-law in-law Isaac Greenspon.

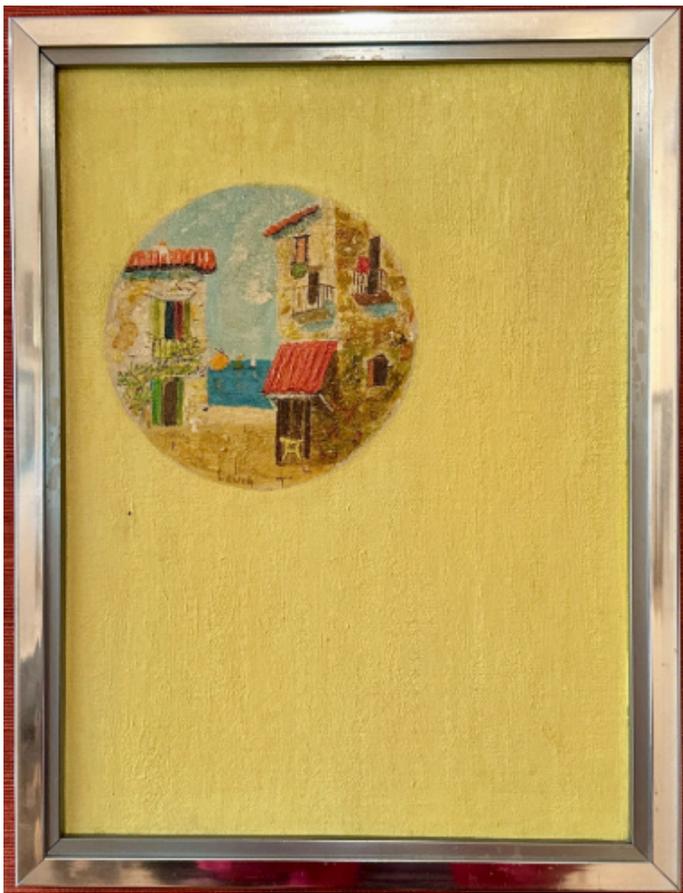
He and his wife, Toby (Greenspon) Morewitz, spent many winters in Pompano Beach, FL. It was during this time that he met Janet Cowan, who introduced him to painting—a creative pursuit he embraced later in life. His acrylic paintings are cherished by his family and can be found in their homes across the country. The pieces shown here are from the collection of Sally (Morewitz) Seltzer, displayed in her home in Williamsburg, VA.

His contributions to the VA Peninsula were often without fanfare or public recognition. Louis Morewitz played a vital role in supporting and advancing organizations such as the Peninsula Sports Club, the Sarah Bonwell Hudgens Center, Rodef Sholom Temple, Beth Sholom Home, the Peninsula United Fund, United Jewish Communities of the Virginia Peninsula, and Hampton University through his dedicated fundraising and volunteer work.

As a member of the first generation in his family born in the United States, he was the son of a pioneer Jewish family who helped establish the Jewish community of the Virginia Peninsula.

Christopher Newport University established a scholarship fund in honor of his memory for students expressing interest in giving back to their community.





**#14**

*Town Within Circle*

Louis Morewitz

**LOUIS  
MOREWITZ**

Bio on page 15

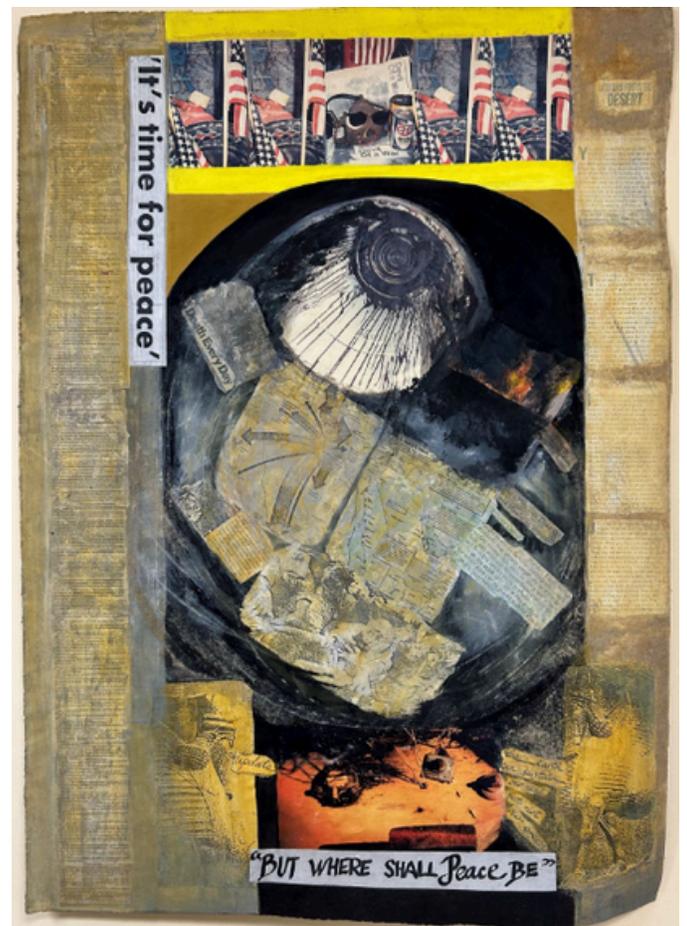
*(Also see works 13 & 19)*

**#15** *It's Time for Peace*  
2022, 35" x 49"

**EDNA SARA  
LAZARON**

Bio on page 11

*(Also see works 8 & 29)*





# #16 *Down the Street*

Watercolor, 11.5 x 14.5

## SARAH DEYONG

*(Also see works 17 & 20)*



1926-2022

Sarah was born July 24, 1926 in Newport News, Virginia. She graduated from Newport News High School in 1943 and began working as a secretary at Camp Patrick Henry during World War II.

She fell in love with Moss Deyong, a recent immigrant from England. They were married in October of 1943 and were stationed in California. After the war they moved back home and started a family and a business which is still open today as Deyong's Boots. They had three children, seven grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. Sarah and Moss traveled extensively to England, Israel, Florida and the Caribbean.

Sarah was always active in Adath Jeshurun Synagogue, where she served on their board. She taught at the UJCP Hebrew School, worked Bingo at AJ and participated in many activities in the Jewish community.

After Moss's death in 2000 she embarked on a new life of education and creativity. She discovered the Life Long Learning Society (LLLS), where she took classes in computers, painting, poetry, language (Italian), writing and history. Traveling with LLLS, she also served on their board and the board of CNU's Theatre Guild. Her favorite medium was watercolor.

She volunteered at Deer Park Elementary School library and earned the title of "School Bubbe", teaching classes to never stop learning. In 2019 she received the Life Long Citizenship award, recognizing her many contributions to the community.

Upon her death in 2022 at age 95, Mayor McKinley Price wrote of Sarah, "She was a woman of integrity and dignity."

# #17 *Laundry Day*

2009, Watercolor, 16" x 13"

# SARAH DEYONG

Bio on page 17  
(Also see works 16 & 20)



# #18

*Reine iii*

1992, Print

# INGER PINCUS

Bio on page 14  
(Also see works 12, 26 & 27)



# #19 *Untitled*

Bio on page 15  
(Also see works 13 & 14)

# LOUIS MOREWITZ



# #20 *A Sweet New Year*

2003, Watercolor, 8.5" x 5.5"

# SARAH DEYONG

Bio on page 17  
(Also see works 16 & 17)



# #21 *Ancestral Mask*

Bronze and Enamel, 18" x 18" x 2"

## LINDA GISSSEN

(Also see works 32 & 38)



1937-2015

Linda Gissen earned college degrees in Sociology and Science. Born and raised in New Jersey, she and her husband, Ira raised their family there before moving to Richmond, VA in 1983, and then Virginia Beach in 1988.

Gissen worked professionally in watercolor and enamel before the excitement of melting metals enticed her into taking a welding class so that she could create metal sculpture. For over 50 years Gissen divided her time between creating towering monumental statues, and fashioning delightful objects for personal, household and ritual use. Gissen hand sculpted each piece by combining her unique style of building figures from molten metal with more traditional metal smithing techniques. Later in life, Gissen explored and learned to master the art of sculpting with glass. Inspired by the cultures of more than 25 countries she visited, and her appreciation for indigenous societies as well as her own Jewish heritage, Gissen spent a lifetime creating objects that could connect us to our shared humanity and spirit.

Her life's work has been featured in dozens of one-person exhibits, national publications and broadcasts, and can be found in the collections of numerous museums, religious institutions, and corporate and private collectors including The White House.

Linda and her Husband Ira (of blessed memory) are survived by their three children, Laura, Emily and David, and one grandchild, Sam.





# #22

# Untitled

# STAN GLASOFER

*(Also see works 23 & 24)*

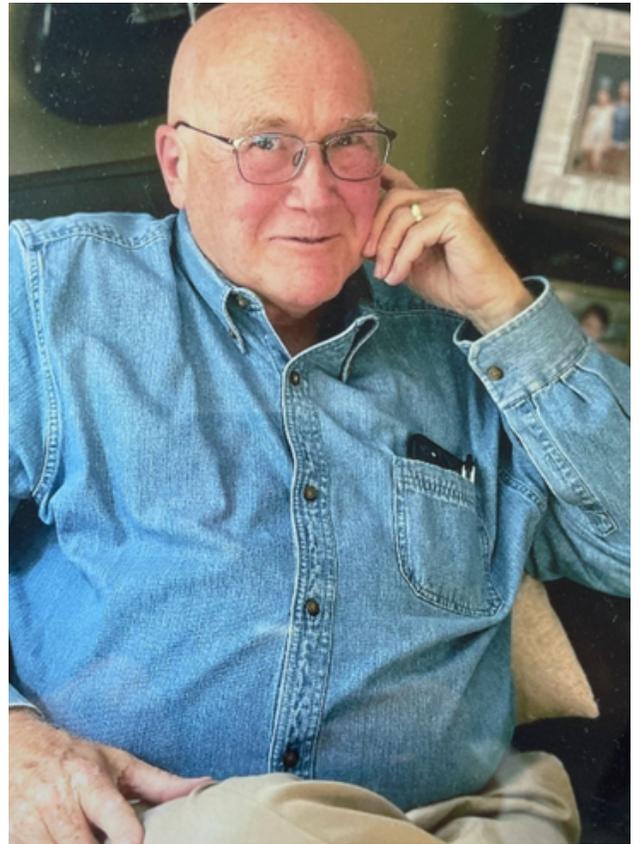
1948-2020

Stan Glasofer was a native of Newport News, an active member of Rodef Sholom Temple, manager of the Jewish Cemetery of the Virginia Peninsula, a clinical psychologist, and an avid painter. He started painting as a boy with lessons from local artist Fred Gibson and he returned to painting as an adult with help from another local artist, Beverly Phillips. His subjects were local scenes and some landscapes from trips he took with his wife Janet. His medium was acrylics on canvas.

Painting made Stan happy and giving away those paintings to family and friends. He contributed several paintings to the United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula charity auctions and was pleased that they raised funds for that organization.

Stan was educated in Newport News Public Schools, Hampton Roads Academy, Roanoke College, and Radford University.

He spent much of his career working with cognitively handicapped individuals and was a competent and compassionate friend and leader in his field. He was the son of Seymour and Lillian Glasofer, husband of Janet, father of Laura and Joseph, and grandfather of Marley, Sam, and Rachel. He died in October 2020, after battling pancreatic cancer. He would have been so pleased to have his pictures included in this exhibition.



# #23 *Untitled*

# STAN GLASOFER

Bio on page 21  
(Also see works 22 & 24)

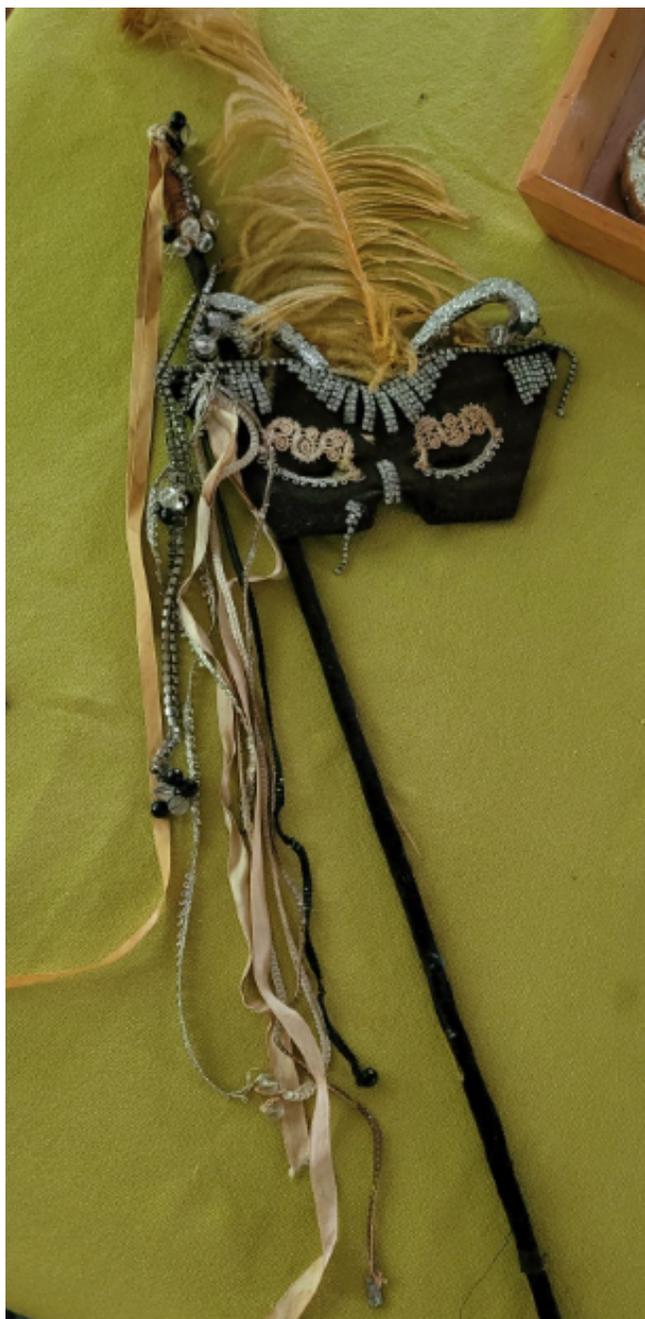


# #24 *Lake Maury in Spring*

# STAN GLASOFER

Bio on page 21  
(Also see works 22 & 23)





## #25 Mask

# R. GRETA JAGER

(Also see work 40)



1930-2018

Greta Jager was born in Norfolk in February 1930. She graduated from Maury High School in 1948. Her first artistic passion was jazz singing. We don't know exactly when it happened, but in the 1950's, she turned her talents to the visual arts, which became her reality in the mid 1960's. She always said that she found her soul the moment she entered the sculpture studio at Old Dominion College. All of the visual arts were then Greta's new and lifelong passion. She spent the next five years earning her BA and MA in art, and assisting Vic Pickett with his famous sculptures throughout the city.

She also developed a deep love for art history, eventually teaching art and art history in Norfolk Public Schools until she retired in 1992. Creating art remained her driving force until she was no longer able to do so. Despite the dementia that took over her life, she still loved listening to music and looking at the masterpieces she had come to know so well. As she became unresponsive, I still played the music I knew she loved. When Greta died on September 11, 2018, she left behind a large and varied collection of artwork that we will always cherish.

# #26 *Untitled*

Bio on page 14  
(Also see works 12, 18, & 27)



# INGER PINCUS

# #27 *Untitled*

# INGER PINCUS

Bio on page 14  
(Also see works 12, 18, 26)





## #28 *Untitled*

# RUTH UNGER

1918-1999

Ruth Unger was born in 1918 and died in 1999 at the age of 80 years old. She was born in the Bronx, NY and lived there until the late 1940s. She then moved to Norfolk, VA with her husband Maurice Unger. In the mid-70s, they moved to Virginia Beach. She loved doing art for her whole life—doing photo prints, serigraphs, paintings, collage. She won many awards over the years. Her work was displayed at shows, libraries and galleries throughout the Tidewater area. Her own words: “I paint what I feel and my view of what I see.”





**#29**

*Parthenon*

c. 1970s, ink on paper, 23 x 23"

**EDNA SARA  
LAZARON**

Bio on page 11

(Also see works 8 & 15))

**#30** *Untitled*

**TELSA  
LEON**

Bio on page 5

(Also see works 2 & 31)





**#31** *Untitled*

**TELSA  
LEON**

Bio on page 5  
(Also see works 2 & 30)

**#32** *Star of David*

Bronze and enamel (on wooden base)  
14" x 8" x 8"

**LINDA  
GISSSEN**

Bio on page 20  
(Also see works 21 & 38)



# #33 *Rabbi with Shofar*

## YETTA BORNSTEIN



1914-1968

Yetta Bornstein's paintings stem from a string of desire to create .One of her paintings won top award in the Museum Annual Tidewater Artist Exhibition in Norfolk.

Yetta shipped her paintings to the World's Fair in Queens New York, 1965-1966. When the show was over she did not want to send her paintings back to Norfolk, so the paintings were sent to her daughter, who lived in NYC.

She was one special loving talented woman.

### *yetta bornstein*

*statement by the artist . . . My painting of collages stems from a very strong desire to create. It is not just the tearing and pasting of paper that fascinates or satisfies, it is the gradual merging of the subject matter which takes on the appearance of life. I realized the beautiful ugliness of the Sidewalk Troubador when I first saw him. He offered a challenge to see if I could capture the hunger, fear, bitterness and dejection he portrayed . . . yet show his love, pity and compassion.*

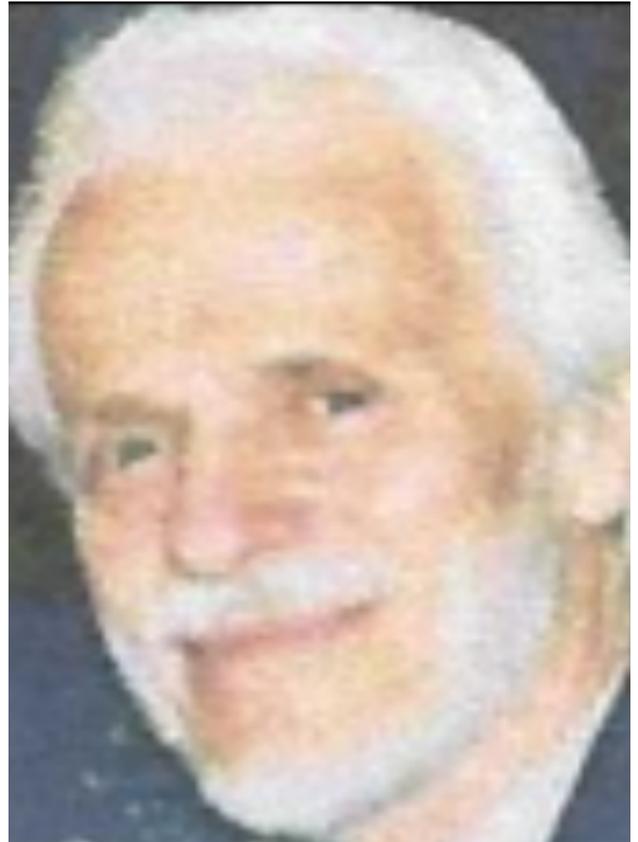
# #34 *Minyan*

## VICTOR PICKETT

*(Also see work 35)*

1934-2022

Victor Aaron Pickett, 87, died March 17, 2022, in Norfolk, VA. He was born June 15, 1934, in Durham, N.C., the only child of Victor W. And Merrill C Pickett. He graduated from Durham High School in 1953 and served in the United States Navy. Victor earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Product Design from the School of Design at North Carolina State University in Raleigh in 1963. He received his MS in Art from East Carolina University in 1964. He then became a sculptor and professor of art at Old Dominion University for 40 years. His sculptures are found throughout the Tidewater area, the southeast and various art museums.



Victor Pickett is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Leer; three daughters, Dominique Pickett; Michele Benson (Stephen); Nicole O'Connor (John); five grandchildren, Victoria Benson, Stephen Benson, Patrick Benson, Michael O'Connor, Jon-Luc O'Connor; and his former wife, Yvonne G. Pickett.



# #35 *Sh'ma*

# VICTOR PICKETT

Bio on page 29  
(Also see work 34)





## #36 *Moses*

# ELLIOT BERNSTEIN

*(Also see work 42)*

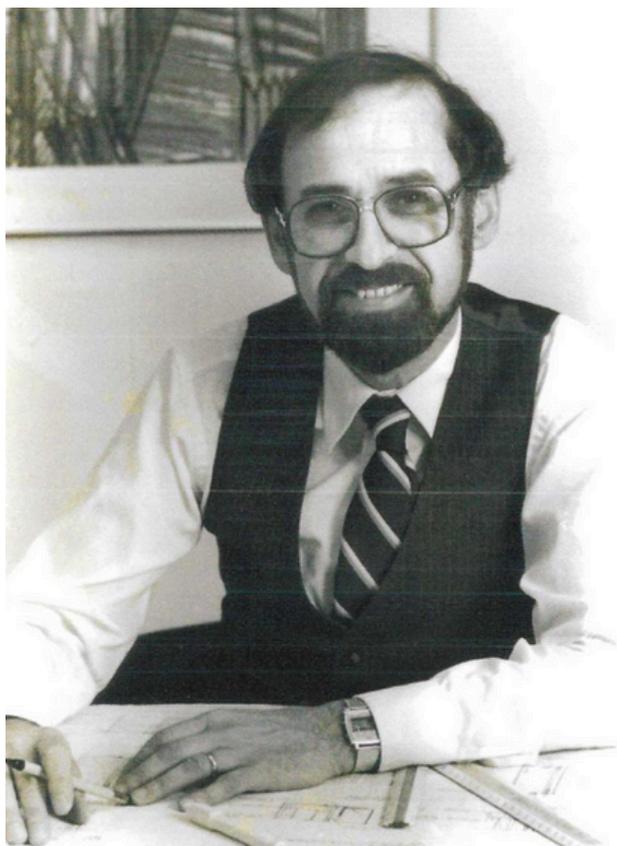


1920-1988

Elliot Bernstein was born in Brooklyn in 1920, and his family moved to Norfolk, VA when he was about 13. His wife, Connie, enrolled him in an art class, and from then on, making sculpture was part of his daily life. He converted the Ghent basement into a woodworking studio, and refitted the garage for stone carving and welding. In the 1960s, outdoor art shows, like the Boardwalk Art Show and many others, were major events for artists from Southeast Virginia and beyond. These shows brought artists together in community, and gave them a venue to sell and participate in judged competitions. Elliot was a regular on the circuit and became friends with Barclay Sheaks, A.B. Jackson, Wilbur Chadwick, Yetta Bornstein, and many others.

He is best known for his stone carving. His pieces range from realistic figures to free-form abstract shapes like those of Henry Moore and Constantine Brancusi. He experimented with many different varieties, but ultimately preferred the soft sandstones quarried in the western part of Virginia. When in the late 1970s he visited the Pacific Northwest, he became fascinated with wooden totem poles, and these inspired the wood sculptures Elliot made in the last decade of his life. He was always working on something, right up to his death in 1988.

In 1970 Elliot bought Yetta Bornstein's art supply business on Hampton Blvd, and with his son Mort began a very successful custom art framing business, Bernstein's Art Gallery. Now located on Colley Avenue, Bernstein's has been doing business for 55 years.



## #37 *Untitled*

1974, Spray paint with stencil, 19" x 22"

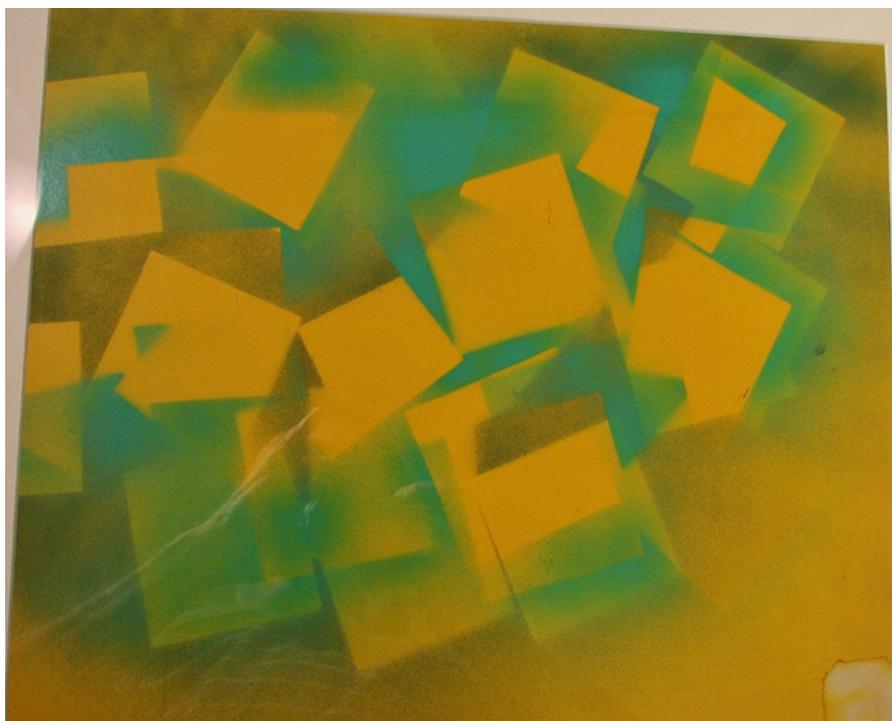
The Tech Art Collection

# LASZLO ARANYI

*(Also see work 39)*

1933-1985

Laszlo Aranyi was born in Budapest, Hungary on September 25, 1933. He received a Bachelors degree in architecture from North Carolina State University in 1958 and opened an office in Virginia Beach, VA in 1965. He was a registered architect in both North Carolina and Virginia. He designed Beach Ford, Inc in Virginia Beach and Lindale Church of Christ in Chesapeake, VA. In 1975 he founded The Design Collaborative, an architectural firm that specialized in passive solar design. One of his last projects was the Central Library in Virginia Beach, now the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library.





# #38 *Rachel Weeping for her children*

Model for 11 foot memorial sculpture  
Sacred Heart Cathedral in Richmond, VA  
Bronze, 36" x 13" x 11"

## LINDA GISSSEN

Bio on page 20  
(Also see works 21 & 32)

# #39 *Cityscape*

1969, Spray paint, 10.5 x 8"  
Matted and framed under glass  
The Tech Art Collection

## LASZLO ARANYI

Bio on page 39  
(Also see work 37)



# #40 *Summertime*

1970

# GRETA JAGER

Bio on page 23  
(Also see work 25)



# #41 *Vessel*

Stoneware

# ELISE SIMON

Bio on page 12  
(Also see work 9)



# #42 *Menorah*

# ELLIOT BERNSTEIN

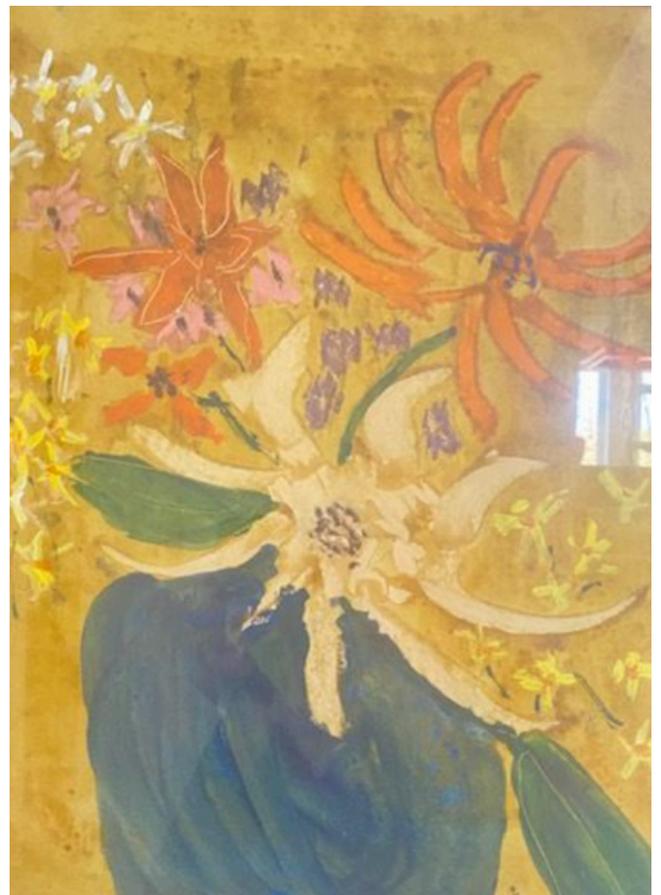
Bio on page 34  
(Also see work 36)



# #43 *Flowers* c. 1970s, Collection of B. Minetter Cooper

# ELSA GERST

Bio on page 10  
(Also see works 7 & 11)





**#44** *Rose Garden*  
Silkscreen, 24.25 x 34.25"

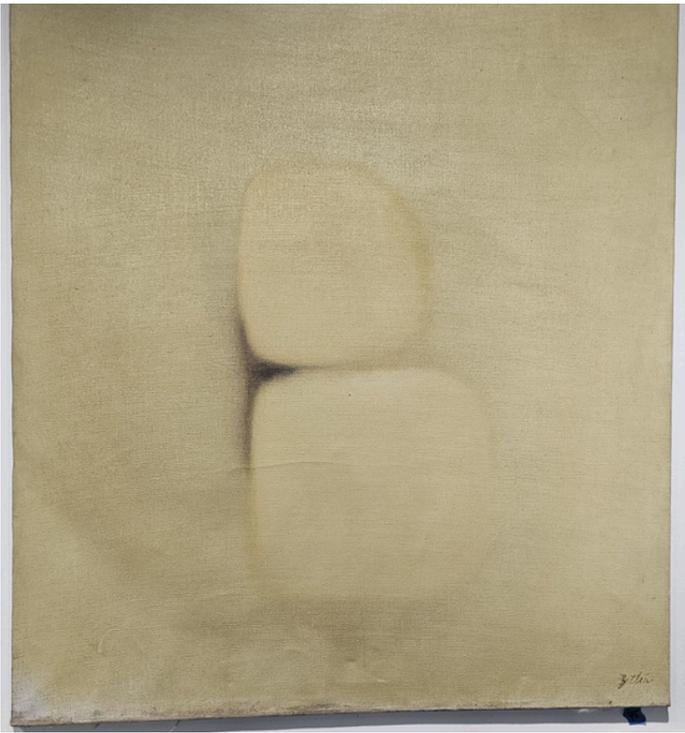
**ARLENE  
KESSER**

Bio on page 7  
(Also see works 4 & 52-downstairs cardo)

# #45 *Untitled 2*

## FAY ZETLIN

(Also see works 47 & 48)



1906-1988

Norfolk artist Fay Zetlin, who died in 1988 at age 82, had as strong an impact on the region's art scene as any figure in the second half of the century. Zetlin was considered by many to be the soul of the art scene. Put her in a room with people, and the fresh-thinking intellectual could be counted on to raise the level of conversation.

At a gallery opening, Zetlin would be the one to spur rigorous dialogue about the reason for the gathering - the art.

Zetlin walked her talk, too. A petite woman, she was a prolific creator of monumental art. Even her late work that was smaller in scale had a heroic demeanor. Zetlin was a powerful artist, one of the strongest ever to work in this area. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art and The Chrysler Museum of Art. Still, she deserved more of a national reputation.

Her paintings convey a version of Creation, from the fiery rumblings in a woman's gut to a close encounter with the blazing outer limits. The tale relates both to Zetlin's own creative growth and to her vision of the cosmos. The early works glimmer with Zetlin's potential. She had immediately hit on a bold and personally expressive mode. Her use of complementary colors, and her obvious effort to balance cool and warm hues, foreshadowed a trait of her mature art. She had been experimenting for a few years with non-objective images. At this point, she made the big plunge into complete abstraction.

In the 1970s, Zetlin took up the air gun as a painting tool. She was less interested in the brush stroke, and more interested in creating a surface texture that suited her increasingly cosmic subject matter. With the air gun, she could achieve soft veils of color, or coat large sections in a zillion tiny dots of color. This is arguably Zetlin's classic phase. The color is dramatic, and glows from within in sections.

The perspective of these works is peculiarly suited to the second half of this century. Imagine you are in a space ship approaching two celestial bodies, which are close to bumping one another. A strange glow emanates in the space between their curved edges, as if an electrical field is activated by their proximity.

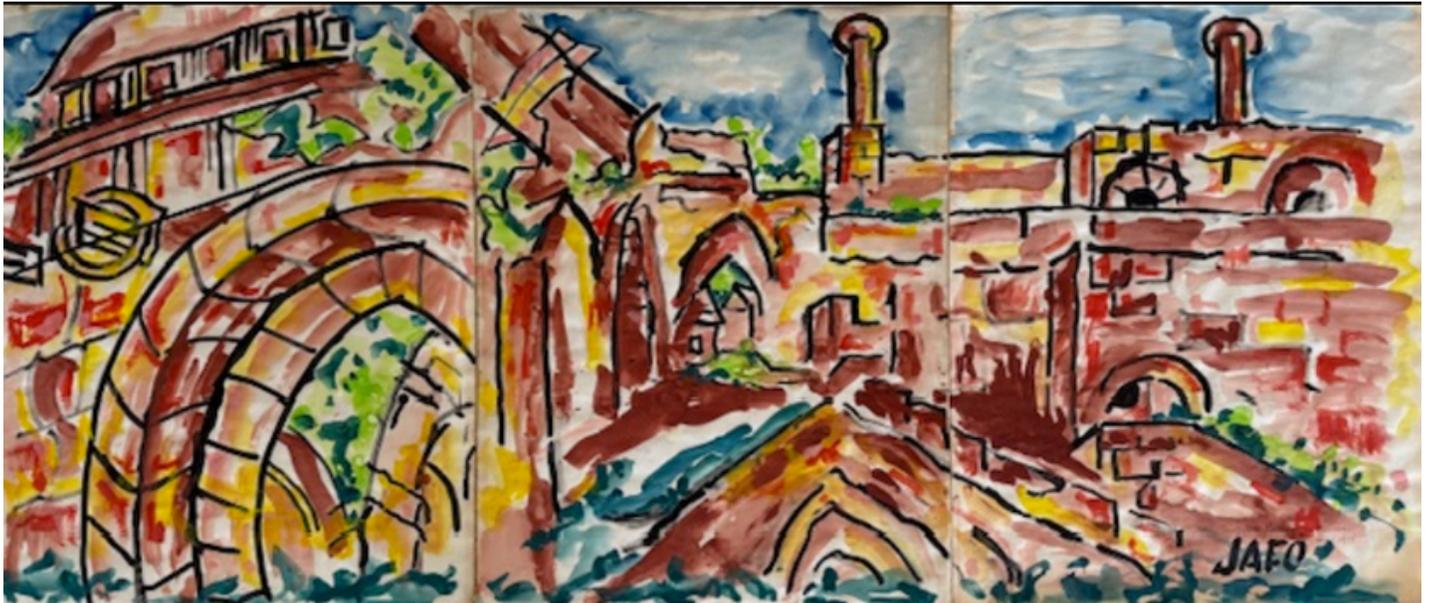
Zetlin fixated on this image for years. By 1985, three years before her death, she had moved in even closer to the electricity. Now, the space between orbs looks like a gateway, inviting you to adjust your eyes to the brightness, and the heat, and pass through. *By Teresa Annas, 1995*



# #46 *Jafo*

# SYLVIA SHILOM

Bio on page 8  
(Also see works 5 & 10)



# #47 *Untitled*

# FAY ZETLIN

Bio on page 37  
(Also see works 45 & 48)





**#48** *Untitled 1*  
1961, Oil

**FAY  
ZETLIN**

Bio on page 37  
(Also see works 45 & 48)

**#49** *Rabbi with  
Torah*  
Crow quill pen and india ink

**WILBUR  
CHADWICK**

1931-2002  
Bio not provided.





**#50** *Untitled 1*

**REITHA  
SEDEL**

Bio on page 4  
(Also see works 1 & 3)

**#51** *Untitled 1*  
36" x 36"

**RUTH  
ROSE**

Bio on page 9  
(Also see work 6)



# #52 *Judaism: The Twelve Tribes*

53" x 42"

## ARLENE KESSLER

Bio on page 7  
(Also see works 4 & 44)



*It has been said that we die twice... once when our earthly bodies depart and once more when our persona, spirit, energy, and essence are no longer remembered.*

# **LEGACY 2025**

# MORE LEGACY 2025

View the Educational Guide at [JewishVA.org/Legacy-EDU](http://JewishVA.org/Legacy-EDU)

Visit [JewishVA.org/Gallery](http://JewishVA.org/Gallery) for docent tour dates.

## THANK YOU

To the following for the support of this project



JEWISH ART  
EDUCATION



Chrysler  
Museum  
of Art



*Jewish Museum & Cultural Center*  
Chevra Thelim Synagogue  
1918-1986



DRUCKER+FALK



The Helen G. Gifford  
FOUNDATION



TIDEWATER  
JEWISH  
FOUNDATION



United Jewish  
Federation  
OF TIDEWATER

Simon Family  
JCC

