

When asked what I create, I usually reply, "commissioned textiles for religious environments". Yet my work transcends these categories. The essence of all I do is bringing stories to life.

A strong academic background (M.A. University of Toronto), extensive design training (Ontario College of Art), a repertoire of textile techniques — including weaving, appliqué, silk-screen, basketry and beading — and enormous curiosity enable me to respond creatively to a variety of challenges.

Undoubtedly the many hours spent with my grandparents in their ladies' wear store was formative. I take delight in carrying on their inspiration of beautiful craftsmanship to enhance and celebrate life.

EDUCATION

- 1985 Associate of the Ontario College of Art (A.O.C.A.), concentration in Design
- 1970 Master of Arts (English and Russian), University of Toronto
- 1970 Bachelor of Education (HSA Type A, English and Russian), University of Toronto

SELECTED AWARDS

- 2002 Craftsman's Grant, Ontario Arts Council
- 2000 Winner of the Spertus Judaica Prize
- 2000 "Fonts in Use" contest, P22 Fonts company
- 1991 Exhibitions Assistance Grant, Ontario Arts Council
- 1985 Honourable Mention, Scholarship Awards, Ontario College of Art
- 1982 Honor Award, American Institute of Architects, for *T. Emanu-El Wedding Canopy*
- 1981 Award of Merit, Ontario Crafts Council, for *Shabbat* prayer shawl
- 1980 Best Life-Cycle Judaic Object, Or Shalom, London
- 1979 Award of Merit, Ontario Crafts Council, for *Winding Form 2* and *Space Warp 2*
- 1968 Ontario Graduate Fellowship for post-baccalaureate study

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2004 Pomegranate exhibit Kansas City KS
- 2003 Portfolio of Makers, Ontario Crafts Council, Toronto
- 2002 "From the Four Corners" for *Gift of Friendship* exhibition, Toronto and Shanghai
- 2002 *Waving Flags and Ringing Bells*, invitational exhibit by Ma'yan at Sussman Gallery, NY
- 2001 Exhibit with Sarah Hall (glass artist) at Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Boston
- 2000-1 *Judging the Book by Its Cover*, Spertus Museum, Chicago
- 2000 *Threads*, Washington DC
- 2000 *Judaica 2000*, A Show of Hands Gallery, Toronto

- 1998 *Women Whose Lives Span the Century*, invitational exhibit organized by the Boston Women's Archives, Starr Gallery, Boston
- 1997 *Miriam's Cup*, invitational exhibit organized by Ma'yan, New York
- 1997 Union of American Hebrew Congregations Biennial, Dallas
- 1995 *The Shiva Box*, Uncommon Objects, Harbourfront, Toronto
- 1994 Work by advanced painting students of Sir Sandford Fleming College, OISE
- 1991 *The Jewish Wedding*, The Koffler Gallery, Toronto; also on selection committee
- 1989 *Ontario Crafts '89*, inaugural exhibition at Ontario Crafts Council Gallery
- 1988-9 *Hallowed Objects*, Ontario Crafts Council travelling exhibition of liturgical art
- 1987 Union of American Hebrew Congregations Biennial, Chicago
- 1986 *The Small Sanctuary*, Beachwood Gallery, Cleveland; two-person show
- 1986 Jewish Quarter Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 1985 Union of American Hebrew Congregations Biennial, Los Angeles
- 1983 *Designed by Commission*, inaugural exhibit, Harbourfront, Toronto
- 1982 *Faith and Form*, Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture, Washington, D.C.
- 1981 *Well Done...Again*, production crafts show, Ontario Crafts Council Gallery, Toronto
- 1979/81 *Ontario Crafts*, Ontario Crafts Council province-wide juried exhibition
- 1974 Ontario Society of Architects

SELECTED COMMISSIONS

- 2004 *Listening to Light* tapestry for Church of St. John The Evangelist, Port Hope, ON
Three Torah mantles for Temple Chai, Scottsdale AZ
- 2003 *Noah's Ark* tapestry for private home in Boca Raton FL
- 2002 Ark Tapestry for B'nai Israel Congregation, Boca Raton FL
- 2000-1 Ark curtain and Torah table cover for Congregation Anshei Israel, Tucson, AZ
Building typography and ark curtain for Adat Shalom, Washington DC
- 2000 Sculptural tapestry for lobby of Sinai Temple, Springfield MA
- 1999-2001 Ark curtains, tapestry, Torah mantles, pulpit covers, *chuppah* for The Village Shul, Toronto
- 1999 Torah mantle to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Leo Baeck Temple, Los Angeles CA
- 1986-99 A set of 14 Torah mantles for Congregation Beth Israel, Northfield NJ
- 1998 Ten Torah mantles, Congregation Beth Israel, Worcester MA
- 1997 Wedding Canopy for Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, Toronto
- 1996 Cover and illustrations for *I Know Who I Am*, a book of poems by Shula Robin
- 1996 Ark gates for Temple Shalom, Waterloo
- 1995-6 A set of eight textile and metal pieces for Genesis, a sanctuary shared by a church and synagogue in Ann Arbor MI
- 1995 Wedding canopy for Beth Tzedec Congregation, Toronto
- 1994 A set of five Yom Tov Torah mantles for East End Temple, New York

- 1992 Ark tapestry for Congregation B'nai Israel Beth David, Toronto
- 1991 Wedding canopy for Temple Beth El, Birmingham, MI
- 1990 Two ark curtain sets for Shaareh Haim Synagogue, Thornhill; with Cyril Lax
- 1990 *Clouds*, hanging for garden space of Flatt residence, Toronto; with Harold Duke
- 1989 Wedding canopy for Congregation Beth Israel, Northfield, NJ
- 1988 *Parents and Children*, set of three Torah mantles for Beth HaMinyan, Toronto
- 1987 *Space Warp 8*, for M & P G, Toronto, commissioned by Contemporary Fine Art Services
- 1985 *Ikat*, 3000 square feet of window panels for McDonald's restaurant, University Avenue, Toronto; in collaboration with Bulow Fabrics
- since 1976 Prayer shawls for many distinguished rabbis, ministers and lay people

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2003 *Healing Hands* Quilt, a project of Israeli and Palestinian women and children
Costume designs for *The Mikado*, a sold-out production of the Jerusalem English-Speaking Theatre
- 2002-3 Sabbatical year living in Jerusalem
Reviewing exhibits and books for *Fusion* magazine
- since 2002 Workshops and speaking engagements with many groups and in many places
- 2002 Workshop on Commission Design for Material Arts students, OCAD, Toronto
- 2000 *Hockey Sweater Moose* for *Moose in the City*; with Susan Brown
- 1999 Conceived, researched, designed and wrote *Directory of Synagogue Artists*
- since 1996 Director, Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition; member of jury and chair of Events committee
- 1993 Subject of a feature on CBC Television, *Sunday Arts and Entertainment*
- 1989 Co-founder of Grassroots, an environmental group now with branches across Canada; also designed logo
- since 1986 Ontario Crafts Council; served in various capacities on committees and Board
- 1985-9 Coordinator, *Sukkah* project, and installation artwork by more than 50 members of the Pomegranate Guild working over 4,500 hours; also designed and wrote catalogue
- 1984 York University Faculty of Education, developed and taught programme in Three-Dimensional Textiles to art specialist candidates
- 1982-91 Founder and executive officer, Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles, Toronto
- 1974-9 Developed and taught course in Off-loom Textiles to art teachers, for the Ontario Ministry of Education
- 1971-4 Canada Studies Foundation, Toronto/Montreal group; developed curriculum materials relating Canadian art and literature in English and French
- 1970-2001 Jarvis Collegiate, teaching at various times English, art, computers; coordinator of co-operative education

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Linda Matchan, "Judaic Art Evolves", *Boston Globe* feature, December 6, 2001

Swartz and Wolfe, ed., *From Memory to Transformation*, Toronto: Second Story, 1998
Ann McPherson, "Ceremony and Craft", cover and feature article, *Ontario Craft*, Spring 1996
Mae Rockland Tupa, *The New Work of Our Hands*, Radnor PA: Chilton, 1994
Bradfield, Pringle, Ridout, *Art of the Spirit: Contemporary Canadian Fabric Art*, Dundurn, 1992
"Torah Mantles", *The Paper Pomegranate*, Winter 1989-90
Temma Gentles, "Is Function Good Form?", *Ontario Craft*, Summer 1989
Cynthia Gasner, "Gentles' creations popular", *The Canadian Jewish News*, June 1, 1989
Kathryn Salomon, *Jewish Ceremonial Embroidery*, London: Batsford, 1987
Jerome Markson Architects, "Celebration With Style", *The Canadian Architect*, Nov. 1985
Temma Gentles, "The artist as Worker: a real-life drama", *CraftNews*, February 1985
Frank Rasky, "Tallis Lady is now a leading Judaica textile artist", *The Canadian Jewish News*, Dec. 1982

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Ohel Moshe Synagogue and Museum, Shanghai, China
Boston Women's Archives, Boston MA
Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum, Toronto ON
Phillip and Sylvia Spertus, Austin TX
Ma'yan: The Jewish Women's Project, New York NY
Coopers and Lybrand, Toronto ON
Magna Corporation, Toronto ON