

Statement for Finding Common Ground  
Cheselyn Amato  
**In The Sukkah: The Serpent Shall Be Tamed**



This is a photograph inside the sukkah I built, a temporary semi-roofed hut erected for the holiday of Sukkot, that is a celebration of the late harvests and our ability to persist and thrive. For eight days we spend our time in the sukkah, under the sky, and there we acknowledge both our vulnerability and our strength. We focus on appreciating the roof over our heads in our permanent homes and we rejoice in our capacity to endure and flourish in less secure and predictable circumstances. This year's sukkah was dedicated to constructive coexistence amongst all peoples of the world. Let the serpent that tempts us all to lose perspective and become closed within our own frames of reference be tamed by the instructive enlightenment of the revelations we receive. Let the wisdom of our traditions heal the narrowness that sometimes overtakes us.

Cheselyn Amato is an interdisciplinary visual artist, designer and performer, Jewish thinker and practitioner, Kabbalist, interreligious activist, secular humanist, global citizen, nomadic temple builder, visual poet, and visual liturgist. She works across 2D, 3D and 4D with an emphasis on enacting living circumstances for the experience of sublimity, awe and delight via the orchestration of visual props and cues as well as sound and colored light phenomena. All the work is made as instigator of experience via spectacle for the revelation and amplification of presence – indwelling and omnipotent. She encourages through her work that when we pay close attention – look and see, listen and hear – all is revealed. She makes work to constantly rediscover love and loving. Cheselyn is committed to tikkun olam, healing of the world, by striving to create places where human being and the divine may interact and create balance.