

Schpiel for JAS Presentation to Accompany Images_10.11.2020

I am weary, Oh Beloved, oh beloveds, because of Yyou, I persevere, and I will swoon again

Aha, ahha, ah ha, ah huh, ah hoh, ah hoo, ah hee,
Uh hoh, uh oh, uh ohhh, uhhhh ohhhhhh—
uh oo, uh hooh, uh hee, uh huh, uh hunh, unh hunh, unh hunnnh,
uh duh, ya dah, yeudah, yuddee, youdeed, youdude, yuuuddddd,
youhoo, youhoo, oh you-hoooooo—
uh yud, yuh hey, yuh vey, yuh hey,
oiy vey, oiy vey, oiyyyy veyyyyy—
ah say, okay, oh yay, today, yud, hey, hey, vav, hey, hey,
yud, heh, vav, heh, yud, heh, vav, heh, yud heh vav heh—
Oh yay, oh yah, oh yah, oh yah,
Oh Yah.....Oh Yahhh

Ohhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh Yyyyaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh
Ahava Yah
Ahava
Love Upon Love Upon Love

Let me begin with gratitude for the ever luminous Ner Tamid (2), Eternal Light, beacon and oasis that is always with us. This piece and the works that follow are called effluxes which means outpouring or pouring forth. Activated by light, color radiant film supported by acrylic discs and mounted via wire and metal strapping along with a repertory of silhouettes, produces reflecting and projecting form and colored light effects. (3) Oh, what Presentment of Wonder and Awe for the triumph of courage, resilience, hope and joy. We are all Kohenot and Kohanim (4), Priestesses and Priests (5) – with tefillin upon our foreheads (6) – we are empowered and emboldened tended by mindfulness and humility (7) to love and care for ourselves, others, the Earth (8) and all the cosmos and all that is other than the cosmos.

After decades as artist and educator, I have recently added hospital and hospice spiritual care chaplaincy and bereavement support provision to my toolbox as a worker in the world. I had started serving as Loss and Grief Specialist at Yolo Hospice in Davis CA about a year before COVID-19 showed up. I work with individuals, families and groups following the death of loved ones. Shortly after the onset of COVID as a collective experience and in response to shelter-in-place, our hospice organization set out to support our community via an Isolation Reduction Activities video series facilitated online via ZOOM. I created an introduction to drawing as tool for grounding and centering. I called it Mark-making for Courage, Resilience, Hope and Joy. It was personally absolutely delighting and edifying to see how my art and spiritual caregiving were coming together.

I have been engaged all my life in an impassioned inquiry about the meaning of being. The calling I feel to contribute to the healing of the world by lifting up the brokenness is now at a new level in

response to a new kind of uncertainty, in which the very persistence of human being altogether, or as we have known ourselves thus far, is in question.

My work has always been my way of claiming, reclaiming and proclaiming life, my desire and will to choose life in the midst of uncertainty and suffering, my own, of others, of all beings. It has also been an offering to assist others pursuing the same venture. I have been called to do this via the embodiment of sublimity, awe, wonder and delight to invite the soul – body, heart, and mind – to know and feel freedom and liberation. The desire to have and impart ecstatic experience is a tireless driving force in me all the more to endure the most harrowing experiences. My art-making process and the artwork itself are an act of will and willingness to celebrate the magnificence of all that is amidst the most intense of vicissitude. Really, my work process now is how it has always been.

Just before COVID, I was preparing for several exhibitions opening in April 2020 that ended up postponed. I had been delving into quantum theory and loving how the vision-concept describes an interconnectedness and interconnectivity that so many human beings feel and know but have been separated from for a long time. (9) I am investigating positive and (10) negative action in the world, triumph and tribulation, and (11) ambiguous energies too. I am examining (12) specters, presences whose intentions are unclear, and actions that heal or harm. I am walking (13) deep into the heart of the flame of oppression, erasure, micro-aggression, and violence in order to construct effective resistance and counter-oppressive action. (14) I am working on the Earth's crying out and (15) wondering about already present increasingly frequent appearances of virulent and (16) dangerous microbial insurgencies prior to COVID.

(17) This piece, *Recalibration and Re-gensis: Priestess in the Quantum Realm and Healing in the Everyday World*, was started before and completed after the onset of COVID. (18 and 19) These are a close-ups and variations presented as digital prints. (20) I made a series of prints from documentation of the sculptural lights including this example: *Re-Genesis Ala Kabbalah, Metatron, Quantum Mechanics, Synchronicity, Synesthesia, Wonder, Awe, Amazement and Chutzpah for Creating Balance and Healing Injustice*. (21) Then in the beginning of April after creating the *Mark-making for Courage* video, I began addressing the specific conditions of the moment, not only COVID, (22) but also to the social upheaval and unrest finally unleashed in response to systemically condoned and even instigated erasure, oppression, and violence resulting in killing, (23) and further to continuing signs of growing global ecological imbalance including extreme heatwaves and the wildfires in CA right where I live. (24) I found myself engaged in re-inventing the Menorah of Temple Days as a *Beacon for Justice and Social Transformation*.

As the weeks turned into months, (25) I made works for my two sons (26) to comfort and protect them (27) and then I started thinking toward the future, with desire for a recalibrated humanity, and it came to me to design (28) a welcome lantern for my community in Berkeley, Chochmat Halev, Wisdom of the Heart. I also did the same for my hospice, (29) for the day we all return to our home-base since most of us are now working from home and/or directly out in the field to minimize the danger of bringing COVID into our agency building. I designed this *Lantern of Love and Goodness*, in honor of the motto of my hospice, that will radiate at night in our outdoor Meditation Garden that is being planted as I speak.

Continuing since the beginning of shelter-in-place, my neighbors have been meeting once a week in the evening in a wide circle outside in our common area, and one at a time, for a moment, each one comes into my space to see the effluxes of that week. The lights represent (30) community together and (31) helping hands; envisagement of positivity and optimism and representation of what needs to be of voiced and heard; (32-36) herons in liberatory grace one in the draft of another; (37 and 38) shabbos candles alight; (39-42) the Shema as an affair of love. Oh, what a luminous shadow all is of the One. And what will our world anew look like?

(43) Finally, I have also directly addressed the COVID coronavirus itself. I worked with an image of the coronavirus and asked myself: what can vanquish COVID – what healing does it need? The following is an excerpt from my prayer and blessing: (44)

A COVID-19 Antidote - Dismantling the Crowns

Amulet for Healing Lost, Reckless and Itinerant Entities

Healing the Broken Heart and Celebrating the Wonder of Renewal

(45) It has come to me that COVID-19 must be seeking a partner; something has changed for this coronavirus that it needs to find company, connection. (46) I am asking myself what is it that humanity can become that will satisfy and assuage the “yearning” that it signals. (47)

(48) May the imbalances that have made room for COVID-19 coronavirus be healed. May the vulnerability for the emergence and rooting of dis-ease - that has been created by imbalance - be countered by generative and calibrating energies for a sustaining and sustainable world created anew. (49)

May we be healed and may we find a path to liberation.

El Na Re Fa Na La – Refuah Shleimah

Please, may there be healing – a full, complete healing – may it be so.

And who shall be written into the book of life and who into the book of death. May we all be written into the book of choosing life, l'chayyim!

Let go the will to control the Earth and make her do our bidding. Fold back the curtain and behold her. (50) In the Sukkah, (51) that teaches us to be humble and (52) to find abundance in enough, by day (53) and by night (54), (55) let all creation be healed and (56) become one.

(57) Ki beiti hu beit ahava, l'khol-ha'amim
Ki beiti hu beit shalom, l'khol-ha'amim

My home is a home of love for all people and all nations.
My home is a home of peace for all people and all nations.

Omen and thank you.