

In-Person Tours and Virtual Talks for Spring 2026 at the Derfner

To schedule a program, call 718-581-1596 or email art@riverspring.org.
Tours and programs free of charge for older adult and special needs groups.



Envisioning the Sacred: Modern Art from the Collection (In-Person and Zoom)

This exhibition features forty-nine prints, paintings, and drawings from the Museum's permanent collection by twentieth and twenty-first-century artists working in a range of modernist styles—from figurative to abstract. Works by twenty-one artists explore stories and characters from the Bible, represent Jewish observances and traditions, or take inspiration from language and legend. Many of the artists express their Jewish identities and relationships to Jewish communal experience through their work. For some, mysticism and quests for spiritual connection are essential features of their art.

Image: Jacques Yankel (1920–2020), *Torah I*, 1972. Gouache on paper, 25 3/4 x 19 3/4 in. Gift of Diana Weinstock Roberts, 15.02. © 2026 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris.



The Art of Angles: Geometric Abstraction in the Collection (Zoom only)

Using selected artworks from the collection, this talk focuses on how artists have used geometry in their work across a variety of styles, including early geometric abstraction, Op Art, Hard-edge painting, and others. Examples include artists who engage geometric abstraction in their work, some in the tradition of the influential Bauhaus teacher Josef Albers, such as Lebanese-born Saliba Douiahy, whose color-based paintings connect to elements of his cultural background, or Robert Kirschbaum, who is inspired by the geometry of Hebrew letters, ritual objects, and other mystical symbols.

Image: Chryssa (b. Athens, Greece, 1933–d. Athens, Greece, 2013), *Reflection*, detail, 1972. Screenprint, 27 3/4 in. x 47 1/2 in. Gift of Harry Abrams, HHAR 3041.



Women Artists Envision the Sacred (Zoom only)

This talk focuses on seven women artists included in Derfner Judaica Museum's exhibition, *Envisioning the Sacred: Modern Art from the Collection*. Louise August, Jane Logemann, Linda Plotkin, Chava Wolpert Richard, Rina Rotholz, Susan Schwalb, and Joyce Ellen Weinstein explore themes of Hebrew language, Jewish history, religion, and culture in works ranging in style from figuration to complete abstraction.

Image: Louise August (b. Brooklyn, New York, 1931–d. probably New York, New York, ca. 2017), *Sabbath Candles*, ca. 1964. Linoleum cut, 11 3/4 x 9 1/16 in. (image); 15 5/8 x 11 5/8 in. (sheet). HHAR 3936.



Celebrating Pride: LGBTQ+ Artists from Derfner Judaica Museum + Art Collection (Zoom only)

This talk focuses on the fascinating careers and lives of twelve LGBTQ+ artists whose work is held in the Art Collection, including celebrated photographer Richard Avedon, early-twentieth-century naturalist and symbolist Andrey Avinoff, colorist Nell Blaine, abstract sculptor Stuart Edelson, landscape painter Bill Sullivan, and Pop artist Andy Warhol, among others. The program can also be presented as a general talk unrelated to Pride Month.

Image: Bill Sullivan (b. New Haven, Connecticut, 1942–d. Hudson, New York, 2010), *Lavender Empire State*, detail, 1995. Oil on canvas, 28 x 18 in. Acquired from the artist, HHAR 4518.



Stuart Edelson: The Art and Activism of a Creative Hyphenate in New York (Zoom only)

This talk, developed in conjunction with the restoration of Stuart Edelson's sculpture *Memory Object* (1973) held in the Art Collection, focuses on the New York artist's fascinating life as an artist, cultural worker, LGBTQ activist, novelist, playwright, and world traveler before his untimely death from AIDS in 1995. Images of Edelson's artistic influences, artworks in different mediums, historical photographs of his activist work, and personal family photos illustrate this talk.

Image: Sculptor Stuart Edelson stands with his 1973 bronze sculpture *Memory Object* in an undated photo.



Modern and Contemporary Art from the Collection of Hebrew Home at Riverdale (Zoom only)

Explore the Hebrew Home at Riverdale's renowned modern and contemporary art collection in an illustrated Zoom talk. The collection includes paintings, prints, photographs, and sculpture in a range of styles, from Cubism to Pop art. Artists to be discussed include Richard Avedon, Romare Bearden, Frédéric Brenner, Jim Dine, Herbert Ferber, Larry Fink, Menashe Kadishman, Alex Katz, Robert Mangold, Joan Mitchell, Louise Nevelson, Ben Shahn, and Pablo Picasso.

Image: Pablo Picasso (b. Málaga, Spain, 1881–d. Mougins, France, 1973), *Untitled*, from *Imaginary Portraits*, 1969. Lithograph, 26 x 20 in. Gift of Eva and Murray Roman, HHAR 821.



Highlights of the Derfner Judaica Museum (In person or Zoom)

This tour provides an introduction to the ongoing exhibition *Tradition and Remembrance: Treasures of the Derfner Judaica Museum*, which explores the intersections of Jewish history and memory. The exhibition tells the stories of art and objects used in traditional Jewish practice in light of the role memory plays in shaping both individual and communal identities. Ongoing.

Image: R. Hersz Szyldberg (active Poland 1850s–70s), Hanukkah Lamp, Warsaw, Russian Empire, now Poland, 1871. Silver: die-stamped, 9 1/8 x 7 5/8 in. Ralph and Leuba Baum Collection, B.144.



Unlisted: Underappreciated Women Artists from the Permanent Collection (Zoom only)

This talk focuses on seventeen twentieth-century women artists found in the permanent collection who worked in modernist styles yet are not often exhibited today despite their significant skills and careers. "Listed" indicates that an artist is included in standard art reference books. It is found in descriptions of works at third-tier auction houses and online auction websites to bolster an artist's legitimacy. "Unlisted," the title of this talk, exposes the irony of the term and the arbitrariness of the art world.

Image: Nadia Gould (b. Strasbourg, France, 1929–d. New York, New York, 2007), *Playful Sunshine*, detail, ca. 1964. Acrylic on board, 15 x 20 1/8 in. HHAR 1735.