



# Maine Jewish Museum

CELEBRATING MAINE'S JEWISH ART, HISTORY AND CULTURE IN A RESTORED 1921 SYNAGOGUE

## Maine Jewish Museum

267 Congress Street  
Portland, ME

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## New Exhibitions Opening Sunday, January 9th

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We are so excited to invite you to our first three exhibitions of 2022. These exhibitions will be open through Friday, February 25th.

Thank you to everyone for supporting us through such a tumultuous year, we can't wait for you to see what we have planned for 2022. Hope you are staying safe and warm this holiday season and we hope you all have a happy New Year!

## Opening Reception: Sunday, January 9, 2022 2pm-4pm

(Opening Reception - Check Website/Facebook for Updates - Snow Date: Sunday, January 13, 2022 2pm-4pm)

First Friday Art Walk: February 4th, 2022 5pm-8pm

## PAPERCUTS & TAPESTRIES: A MOTHER-DAUGHTER COLLABORATION



Four-Animal Mizrah, papercut over painted highlights  
YEHUDIT SHADUR



Detail, Holocaust Memorial Mural Tapestry.  
DESIGN: Y. SHADUR, WEAVING: T. SHADUR

## Papercuts & Tapestries: A Mother-Daughter Collaboration

Yehudit Shadur and Tamar Shadur

*Jody S. Sataloff Art and History Pavilion*

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**Yehudit Shadur** (1928-2011) was a professional artist whose work includes drawings, paintings, printmaking, and Jewish decorative arts. She had gained wide recognition as the foremost exponent in the revival of the centuries-old, nearly forgotten Jewish folk tradition of papercutting. Her vigorous compositions – a synthesis of time-honored Jewish ritual themes and symbols, and of contemporary perceptions – are rendered in a universally appealing artistic language. Her work is represented in major museums and private collections of Judaica in Israel, North America, and Europe. Together with her husband Joseph Shadur, Yehudit Shadur published two scholarly books that are important additions to the literature of Jewish art after three decades of researching, studying, and documenting the folk-art of Jewish papercutting.

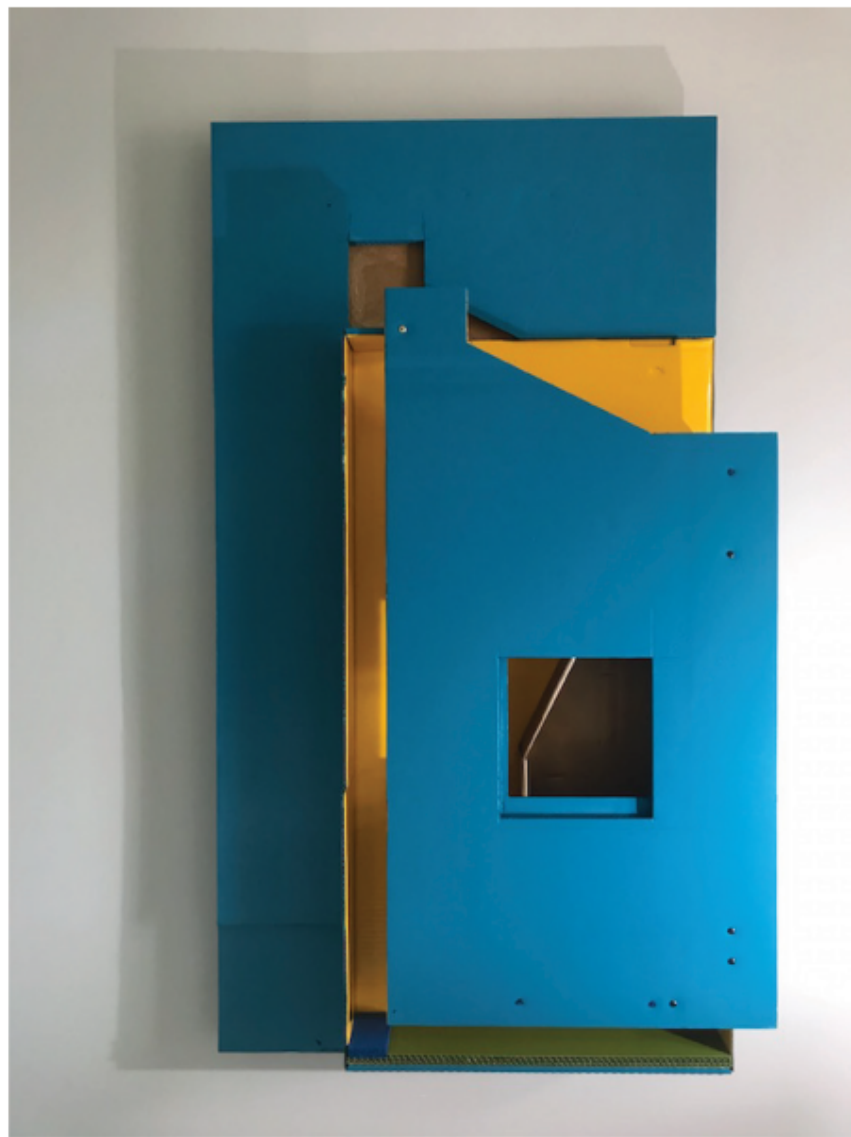
**(Jewish Papercuts: A History and Guide**, 1994, J. L. Magnes Museum (winner of the annual National Jewish Book Council Award for the outstanding book in the visual arts).

**Traditional Jewish Papercuts – An Inner World of Art and Symbol**, 2002, University Press of New England)

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**Tamar Shadur** was initially trained at the Jerusalem Tapestry Workshop in Israel using the Aubusson technique where she wove fine mural size tapestries designed by well-known artists, Jean Lurçat among them. In the 1980s and 90s Tamar collaborated with her mother, Yehudit Shadur to produce several tapestries with ornate symbolic imagery and Hebrew text that distinguish Y. Shadur's exquisite papercuts. The Holocaust Memorial Tapestry Project is the final and largest work to emerge from this collaboration. Tamar uses metal pipe looms to weave her smaller tapestries. She has taught tapestry weaving and papercut workshops and given related lectures in various communities. Her work has been exhibited widely in New England, the Southwest, the Midwest, and in Israel.

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*Images: (Left): Four-Animal Mizrah, papercut over painted highlights, Yehudit Shadur; (Right): Detail, Holocaust Memorial Mural Tapestry, Design: Y. Shadur, Weaving: T. Shadur*

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**OLIVER SOLMITZ**

## **Enter the Space**

**Oliver Solmitz**

*Fineberg Family Community Room*

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Rather than making objects, Oliver Solmitz investigates qualities of space defined by structure and color, revealed by light. Ollie often uses found materials such as those from construction sites. And it is in the making that he embraces the tension found between modern materials that reflect a machine-based aesthetic, and work that purposefully retains evidence of the human hand.

Oliver's paternal grandmother was an early influence in his life of making. She had to abandon her education as an artist in fleeing Nazi Germany with her philosopher husband on miraculously securing his freedom from Dachau very early in



the war. The other strong influence was his Swiss mother, from whom he learned to appreciate clean lines that retain an emotional resonance. These early influences led Solmitz to earn an undergraduate degree in architecture from the University of Maine at Augusta, and a Master of Fine Art degree from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art.

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*Image: Untitled, 56 1/2 x 34 1/4 x 5 1/4 inches, cardboard, glue, hardware, paint, and wood*

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## What We Carry



Hélène Farrar

## What We Carry

Hélène Farrar

*Spiegel Gallery*

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Artist Talk: Sunday, January 23, 2022 2pm (Snow Date  
January 30<sup>th</sup> 2pm)

We are more complicated than we think we are. We are even more complicated than the stories we tell. We react and respond to the world without one breathe in between. We don't see the someone right next to us. That someone could be carrying with them an entire room-full of trauma, a deep dis-connect to others, severe loneliness or a radiant joy that could be spread like wild fire. Where has it become our nature to engage before listening or looking? Revealing or attempting to engage with others about the difficult aspects of our human nature can make us feel vulnerable. There is far too much shame in looking at the "stuff " we carry. Could humans act more compassionate if they could see what they and their neighbors carry? These artworks explore the weight of burden and create conversations about one's perspective.

Hélène Farrar is known for her nature inspired paintings of trees, critters, flowers and birds. Her work reflects a deep connection to place, often of the woods surrounding her home. Personal "landmarks" act metaphorically as subjects for introspection, visual meditation, and quiet. Hélène works primarily in the ancient medium of encaustic. She shows her work nationally and has been invited to participate in many exhibits, some of which include the Saco Art Museum, the Fuller Craft Museum, the University of Maine at Farmington Art Gallery, and the Art Complex Museum. Farrar is a Teaching Artist at the Farnsworth Art Museum and has taught across New England, some of which includes the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, and the International Encaustics Conference. She received her BA in Art from the University of Maine in 1998 and an MFA from Goddard College in 2005. In 2021 she illustrated her first children's book, "The Deer Man". Farrar is represented by Archipelago Fine Arts in Rockland, Maine.

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*Image: Weight of Worry, 24 X 24 inches, encaustic on panel*

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Maine Jewish Museum



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267 Congress Street

Portland, ME

Hours: Sunday through Friday 12pm-4pm Closed: Saturdays

*Masks required for all visitors.  
Please maintain 6 ft distance from one another.*

The mission of the Maine Jewish Museum is to honor the contributions and diversity of Maine's Jewish immigrants in the context of the American experience. Through exhibits and programming, the Museum seeks to build bridges of appreciation and understanding with people of all backgrounds.

Join us in celebrating Jewish ART, HISTORY and CULTURE in Maine.



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