

# Asherah Cinnamon [www.asherahcinnamon.com](http://www.asherahcinnamon.com)

Limington, Maine, USA

telephone: 001 (207) 712-4323

acinnamonartist@gmail.com

## My Practice as sculptor, installation artist & group facilitator explores:

- 1) climate & human reconnection to the natural world. I work primarily with sustainably & locally harvested materials & recycled objects.
- 2) the role of celebration, social justice activism, & cultural ritual in building community
- 3) war, genocide, racism, immigration, women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights, ableism, economic inequity, connection & oppression among and towards Jews and Muslims.
- 4) The role of emotional healing in social justice work

## Exhibitions, Public Art Projects, Performance Art

- 2024 **Conference for Small Town Jewish Life**, Colby College. **The Story of Ruth**: Juried group exhibition, June  
**Vessel**, group exhibit, **Cultural Center**, Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga, TN. Jan. 8 - Feb. 23
- 2023 **From Branch to Midrash**, solo exhibition **Parsonage Gallery**, Sept. 23 - Oct. 22, Searsport Collaborative Public Art Installation with Rosalba Breazeale, **Parsonage Gallery**, 9/23-12/3  
**The Hagaddah Project**, Group Exhibition at Maine Conference for Jewish Life, Waterville, June  
Congregation Bet'Ha'am, So Portland, ME, March
- 2020 **Woven Together**, juried group exhibition, **Engine Gallery**, Biddeford, Maine
- 2019 **University of New England Gallery** Invitational Sculpture Garden exhibit, June through October  
**Maine College of Art**, Alumni Artist in Residence, Individual Public Installation and open studios
- 2018 **Maine State Museum: Dwelling Place**, interactive public art installation & *sukkah*.  
Installed in the Entrance Atrium, welcoming visitors to the first ever exhibition on the **History of Jews In Maine**.  
**Univ. of New England Gallery, Portland** Invitational Sculpture Garden Exhibition, June – October
- 2017 **SukkahWood**, Juried Interactive Public Art, curator Goldie Gross, Inwood Park, Manhattan, NY  
**Women's Body/Women's Mind**, interactive public art installation, UNE Gallery. January through March
- 2016 **University of Southern California Hillel Gallery**, Juried Group, Los Angeles, Calif. Sept - Dec  
**University Of New England Gallery**, Invitational group Sculpture Garden Exhibition, June – October  
**Women's Body/Women's Mind**, interactive public art installation, Art Kibbutz New York: International Jewish Artist's Colony, Governor's Island, NY, NY, June  
**Dwelling Place**, solo interactive public art installation and *sukkah*, Maine College of Art, October
- 2015 **Sacrifice**, London Jewish Museum, King's College, England, Invitational group exhibition Sept '15–Jan '16  
**ECOArt**, Muong Cultural Museum, Hoa Binh, Vietnam, November 2015 through 2016  
**Maine Synagogues**, Invitational group exhibition, Maine Jewish Museum. May to July
- 2014 **The Jewish Dance with Planet Earth**. Juried international group exhibition, Colonel's Row, Building 406A, Governor's Island, New York, NY  
**Sukkah PDX**, Juried international exhibition of 6 outdoor installations, Oregon Jewish Museum, Portland, Oregon
- 2013 **Celebration, Tradition, and Change**. Solo Exhibition, Maine Jewish Museum *Shema*: Listen. Collaborative sculpture, with performance/community-building event. Eden Village Lake, New York
- 2012 **JUMP:War**, interactive collaborative public art performances. Clifford Gallery & Main St, Belfast, ME  
**Dwelling Place** interactive public art installation & *sukkah*, University of New England Gallery
- 2011 **Pay It Forward** solo interactive installation, Modern Woodmen of America, Standish Maine  
**Dwelling Place** solo interactive public art installation and *sukkah*, **University of Southern Maine**  
Love Affair with Trees, **incl.** Friendship In Hard Times II, **solo exhibition, Engine, Biddeford, ME**
- 2010 **Friendship in Hard Times**, solo public art project with Fred Hall Elementary School, Baxter School for the Deaf, and Bonnie Eagle High School, Southern Maine  
**Separation Connection**, MECA alumni collaborative, contemporary performance art, Portland, Maine
- 2009 **The Spirit of Trees** retrospective solo exhibit, Temple Shalom Synagogue and Center, Auburn, Maine
- 2008 **Olympic Sculpture Exhibition** Tiananmen Square, 2008 Beijing Olympics, China  
**Tradition and Transformation** juried group show: Beth Shadur, juror, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago  
**Institute of Contemporary Art**, "Index" juried exhibition, Portland Maine
- 2007 **Olympic Landscape Sculpture International Exhibition of Finalists** juried group.

Sacramento Convention Center, Sacramento, CA; Lawson Field Theater, Gisborne, New Zealand; Sports Center, Rome, Italy; China Millennium Monument, Beijing, China; Hong Kong Park, Hong Kong; Olympic Museum Park, Lausanne, Switzerland; Sport and Olympic Museum, Barcelona, Spain

**Teshuvah: Turn and Mend** solo interactive public art installation, Post Office Park, Portland, ME

**Kaddish for the Dispossessed** solo public art installation, City of Portland, ME

- 2006 **Beijing Olympic Landscape Sculpture Contest Chinese Exhibition** juried group. Jintai Museum, Beijing; Guangzhou Museum of Art, Guangzhou; Dongfanghong Square, Lanzhou, Gansu Province; Changchun World Sculptures Park, Changchun; Wuyuanwan Feature Street Plaza, Xiamen; Tianjin Square, Tianjin, China

## Selected Guest Lectures, Workshops, Forums, Residencies, Work projects

- 2024 Artist talk, **Conference for Jewish Life**, Waterville, ME, June
- 2023 Artists' talks, with 5 collaborating artists, at two **Hagaddah Project** exhibitions: Maine Conference for Jewish Life, Thomas College, Waterville, ME and Congregation Bet Ha'am, South Portland ME. June and March respectively
- 2021 Leader and organizer for two monthly online artist groups to support the artistic process during Covid 19. Ongoing since May of 2020: one is for a diverse group of International artists, and the other is supported by Art Kibbutz specifically for International Jewish artists members.
- 2020 **Jewish Art Salon** Artist talk online December 15. Recorded and available on JAS Facebook or website **Engine Gallery** online Artist talk  
Leader and organizer for two monthly online artist groups to support the artistic process during Covid 19. Ongoing since May of 2020: one is for a diverse group of International artists, and the other is supported by Art Kibbutz specifically for International Jewish artists members.
- 2019 **Making Art About Ending War and Genocide**, 5-Day Invitational Residency, Limington, Maine. August, Funded in part by The Maine Arts Commission and Indo-China Arts Partnership.  
**Alumni Residency**, Maine College of Art, Portland, Maine July  
**Artist in Residence**, Camp MoyMoDaYo, Limington, Maine
- 2018 **Making Art About Ending War and Genocide**, 3-Day Invitational Residency, Limington, Maine. August  
Art Kibbutz NY, Program Director for **International Artist Residency** in upstate NY, June
- 2016 **Art Kibbutz New York**, Art and Social Justice Residency, Governor's Island, including guest workshop on women's issues for artists, funded in part by the NY Women's Foundation, June  
**Artists Wielding Words and Images: Art as Social Change Agent**, University of So. Maine, April  
**Jewish Community Alliance of Maine**, Workshop on Creativity and *Schmita*, June
- 2015 **Muong Studio** Collaborative contemporary art juried residency and ECOArt Project, Vietnam, Nov  
**Art Kibbutz New York**, *Schmita* Festival and juried residency, Governor's Island, NY, July/Aug  
**Maine Conference for Jewish Life**, presentations on creativity, June
- 2014 **EMMA International Collaboration** juried residency, Ness Creek, Canada.
- 2013 **Art Kibbutz New York**, International juried residency: "the Jewish Waltz with Planet Earth"
- 2012 "Finding Voice as a Visual Artist", Sculpture Department visiting artist, **Maine College of Art**
- 2011 **Inter-Professional Educational Collaborative University of New England**, "Healing Arts and Creative Spaces for Emotional Renewal"  
**International Affairs Conference**, visual artist in residence
- 2009 **National Association of Social Workers**, Keynote Address, Maine Chapter Annual Conference
- 2008 **Institute of Contemporary Art**, "Index" Juried Exhibition artist talk, Portland Maine
- 2007 **Congregation Bet Ha'am**, "*Shabbat Shuvah*: art and the tradition of mending relationships", Maine  
**University Of Southern Maine**, "Spiritual responses in the visual arts to poverty and homelessness"  
**Institute of Contemporary Art**, Portland, Maine, Public Forum in association with solo public art project of the same name. "Kaddish for the Dispossessed: A Call to Economic Justice", connecting the arts and social justice communities in the active pursuit of economic justice to end homelessness.

## Selected Awards, Grants, Media, and Publications

- 2023 **Maine Sunday Telegram**, "Artists Reach Back in Time to Express Contemporary Ideas", Jorge S. Arango, October 1, 2023
- 2022 **Modern Judaica: Today's Makers, Today's Sacred Objects** (255 pages of color photos of work and interviews with 52 Contemporary Jewish artists working from 1930 to the present in 6 countries), by Jim Cohen. See Cinnamon pp 46-49, Schiffer Publishing, Atglen, PA
- 2021 **American Guild of Judaic Art** Working Artist Grant (one of 6), for supplies and equipment to learn the use of Encaustic methods and materials to begin a new project.
- 2019 **Indo-China Arts Partnership Project Grant**

**Maine Arts Commission Individual Artist Project Grant  
Maine College of Art Alumni Residency**

- 2017 **SukkahWood**, Juried Award, New York, NY
- 2016 **Portland Magazine, 3D Artists:** featuring 30 of Maine's, Annual Art issue, September/October  
**Jewish Women's Foundation of New York Fellowship** for Art Kibbutz New York Residency and teaching
- 2015 **Linda and Joel Abromson Fund Award**, funding for Schmita Project and Art Kibbutz NY Residency
- 2014 **The Oregonian**, October 10. "Big Ideas In Tiny Spaces". Review of juried exhibition  
**Haddasah Magazine**, January. "The Arts: United (Jewish) Artists", by Aaron Rosen  
Emma International artist residency, **Maine College of Art grant award**
- 2013 **Daily Forward**, "Art Kibbutz Bears First Fruits" by Rebecca Schischa, May 17  
<http://www.artkibbutz.org/environmentalland-art-residency>  
<http://www.healingwiththearts.com/?s=asherah+cinnamon>
- 2011 **Linda and Joel Abromson Fund Award**, funding for "Dwelling Place" installation
- 2009 **Juror's Choice Award**, Maine Art Gallery, Wiscasset, Maine
- 2008 **Beijing 2008 Olympic Landscape Sculpture Competition, Five Rings Prize**, with Scott Fuller  
Maine State Campus Compact, "**Heart and Soul Award**"
- 2004 "Community Organizing for Social Change", By Asherah Cinnamon, Essay printed in Linda May Grobman, Editor, **Days in the Lives of Social Workers**. White Hat Communications.

## Education

BFA: Sculpture, Maine College of Art, Portland, Maine, USA  
MSW: Group Work, Boston University School of Social Work, Boston, Massachusetts, USA and LCSW, Maine University of Maine, Orono, Graduate study in Psychology, and Licensed Psychological Examiner, Maine Graduate Diploma (= MS in USA) in Criminology: Cambridge University, Cambridge, England  
BA and graduate study: University of Wisconsin at Madison: Philosophy, Ethics, Constitutional & Civil Rights Law

## Selected Professional & Community Contributions:

**Maine State Democratic Party**, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee, Member 2022-current  
Led two meetings for my Reform synagogue on **Israel/Palestine**: healing through listening. 2024

**Limington Democratic Party Committee**, Chair 2022-2024

**Jewish Art Salon**, Fellow, current

**American Guild of Judaic Art**, Member, current

**Maine Arts Commission**, Teaching Artist certified 2019  
Created the structure chosen for, and helped create emotional "space" for a **Muslim/Jewish Dialogue at Jewish Museum**, Portland Oregon, 2014

**Maine College of Art**: Alumni Council member 2009-2018, Community Building Award 2008

**Hakhel International, Creative Communities Subgroup**, Member 2017-2019  
Organized a Panel Discussion of people who have experienced being Homeless at **Institute of Contemporary Art**, Portland, ME in conjunction with installation of my Public Art on grief, death, and the unhoused. 2007-2008

**National Coalition Building Institute** (aka NCBI International) Chapter Director Maine and Tennessee, International Board, Member 1990-2003

**US Holocaust Museum Education Department**, recognized in 1997 for organizing community response to the racist destruction by arson of the Inner-City Church, Knoxville, TN, 1996.

**New England United Methodist Conference Award for Social Justice Actions**, 1992