



# WOMEN OF VALOR AND OTHER SUPER HEROES

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[www.NiceJewishArtist.com](http://www.NiceJewishArtist.com)



### Tree of Mothers and Daughters

Mixed media  
11" x 14"  
2015

There are a few comic book characters whose identity has been passed from mother to daughter, such as Black Canary and Silk Spectre. "Tree of Mothers and Daughters" explores the Jewish tradition of matrilineal descent, contrasted with a lack of details about most mother/daughter relationships.

Includes:

Action Comics Weekly #624 (Nov 1988)  
Before Watchmen: Silk Spectre #4 (Dec 2012)  
Black Canary #2 (Sep 2015)  
Green Arrow and Black Canary #8 (Jul 2008)  
Justice Society of America #2 (May 1991),  
#4 (Jul 1991), #11 (Feb 2008), #14 (May 2008)  
Watchmen (1986)



### KATHOOM

Mixed media  
11" x 14"  
2015

Shemot (Exodus) 19:16 describes the revelation at Mt. Sinai, with thunder and lightning and a dense cloud upon the mountain. In 19:18 we read that smoke rose around the top of the mountain as if from a kiln, and in 24:17 we learn that God appears to the Israelites as a consuming fire upon the mountain.



### Jerusalem of Gold

Giclée print  
(Original in private collection)  
18" x 24"  
2013

"Jerusalem of Gold" explores the role of women in prayer and the continuing evolution and pursuit of gender equality at the Kotel (the Western Wall). The women in this piece are relegated to the margins, away from the Wall — and the speech bubble above Wonder Woman and her companion is blank, representing the silencing of women's voices at this holy site.

Includes:

Misericordia #1 (Dec 2007)  
Testament #1 (Feb 2006), #12 (Jan 2007)  
Wonder Woman #178 (Sep 1968), #1 (Feb 1987),  
#46 (Nov 89), #44 (Jul 1990), #3 (Jan 2012)



### Armor Bet Gimmel

Mixed media  
12" x 12"  
2015

The first three letters of the Hebrew alphabet are layered one over the other with Armor (a young mutant hero in the X-Men) defining the lines that make up the aleph (in red).

Includes:

Astonishing X-Men #13 (Apr 2006),  
#16 (Oct 2006), #26 (Oct 2008), #27 (Nov 2008),  
#36 (Apr 2011)  
Uncanny X-Men #600 (Oct 2015)  
Giant-Size Astonishing X-Men #1 (Jul 2008)



### Aleph Barda Gimmel

Mixed media  
12" x 12"  
2015

The first three letters of the Hebrew alphabet are layered one over the other with Barda (a New God created by Jack Kirby who is a married woman and a fierce warrior) defining the lines that make up the bet (in blue).

Includes:

The Forever People #6 (Dec 1971)  
JLA #32 (Aug 1999)  
Justice League International #9 (Nov 1988),  
#15 (Jul 1988), #18 (Oct 1988), Annual #2 (1988)



### Aleph Bet Gwen

Mixed media  
12" x 12"  
2015

The first three letters of the Hebrew alphabet are layered one over the other with Gwen Stacy defining the lines that make up the gimmel (in pink). Gwen was originally Peter Parker's (Spider-Man's) love interest and damsel-in-distress (in the older, green comics); recently an alternate dimension version has become well-known as the super hero Spider-Gwen (the pink gimmel).

Includes:

The Amazing Spider-Man #365 (Aug 1972)  
Marvel Tales #66 (Apr 1976), #73 (Nov 1976)  
Spider-Gwen #1 (Apr 2015), #5 (Aug 2015)  
Spider-Verse #1 (May 2015)



### Pillars

Mixed media  
24" x 18" (diptych)  
2015

The book of Shemot (Exodus) details the wanderings of the Israelites in the desert. They are protected by God's sheltering presence: by day in a pillar of cloud, and by night in a pillar of fire. Made of cut-up comics featuring the Watcher (a sentient and powerful being who watches humanity from the moon but has vowed never to interfere), this piece explores God's presence in the lives of the Jewish people.

#### Includes:

Fantastic Four Annual #18 (1984)  
Original Sin #0 (Jun 2014), #1 (Jul 2014)  
Supergirl #2 (Dec 2011)  
300 (1998)



### Yael

Mixed media  
14" x 11"  
2015

Yael, biblical warrior heroine, is mashed up with comic book heroine Gamora, "the deadliest woman in the whole galaxy" — within the geometric reimagining of the silhouette of a Nubian Ibex, a strong and graceful desert creature found throughout the country of Israel, and whose name in Hebrew is also "Yael."

#### Includes:

Guardians of the Galaxy #23 (Mar 2015),  
#24 (Apr 2015), #27 (Jul 2015)  
Guardians of the Galaxy: Tomorrow's Avengers  
#1 (Sep 2013)  
Warlock and the Infinity Watch #11 (Dec 1992),  
#12 (Jan 1993)



### Radiant Energy

Mixed media  
24" x 18"  
2014

This piece is an exploration of the human element in revelation, seen through the lens of Marie Curie's life. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person and only woman to win twice, and the only person to win twice in multiple sciences.

#### Includes:

Wonder Woman #23.2 (Nov 2013)



### Sapphire Tablets

Mixed media  
10" x 13"  
2010  
(On loan from Ben Marcus)

Midrash tells us that the Ten Commandments given on Mount Sinai were carved out of an enormous sapphire; this decalogue is built out of pieces of the comic heroine, Star Sapphire. The insignia on her helmet and her ring from the "Blackest Night" mini-series are prominent features, alongside the first ten letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

#### Includes:

Blackest Night (various)  
Green Lantern #20 (2007)  
Green Lantern Corps: Sins of the Star Sapphire  
#29–32 (Dec 2008 – Mar 2009)



### A Job For Us

Mixed media  
11" x 14"  
2015

The prophet Amos declared, "Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5:24). "A Job For Us" presents a manifestation of these words, with the overwhelming force of justice represented by a cascading torrent made of cut-up Justice League comics.

#### Includes:

JLA #75 (Jan 2003), #103 (Oct 2004)  
JSA: Classified #15 (Oct 2006)  
Justice League of America #242 (Sep 1985),  
#32 (Jun 2009)  
Justice League #22 (May 2011), #1 (Oct 2011),  
#5 (Feb 2013)  
Justice #1 (Oct 2005), #2 (Dec 2005)  
Justice Society of America #11 (Feb 2008),  
#26 (Jun 2009), #53 (Sep 2011)



### Hamsa Thwip

Mixed media  
11" x 14"  
2015

The hamsa is a sign of protection; it represents blessing, power and strength, and is potent in deflecting the evil eye. This one is built in the gesture that Spider-Man uses to shoot his webs, fulfilling his responsibility to use his power to protect others.

#### Includes:

The Amazing Spider-Man #546 (Feb 2008),  
#700 (Feb 2013)  
Edge of Spider-Verse #4 (Jan 2015)  
Peter Parker, The Spectacular Spider-Man #99  
(Feb 1985), #100 (Mar 1985)  
Spider-Man #1 (Aug 1990)  
Spider-Man Chapter One #8 (Jun 1999)  
Spider-Verse #1 (Jan 2015)  
Ultimate Spider-Man #115 (Dec 2007)  
Web of Spider-Man Annual #4 (1988)



### My Canary Cry

Mixed media

14" x 30"

2013

(On loan from Ben Marcus)

This papercut is a reflection on the role of women in ritual worship and community leadership, inspired primarily by the artist's wife. It's backed with female superheroes whose voices give them power to fight for good, such as Black Canary and Syren. It's an exploration of the role of women as leaders of the community, using their voices to call people to their responsibilities, to bring them together to work for good.



### Breathe Free

Mixed media

12" x 18"

2015

The original Ms. Marvel, Carol Danvers, has recently "passed the torch" to a young Muslim immigrant from Pakistan. Both dedicate themselves to the ideas of peace and freedom, and the message carved in stone at the foot of the Statue of Liberty — words written by the Jewish poet, Emma Lazarus.

Includes:

Avengers [Free Comic Book Day] #1 (Jun 2015)

Captain Marvel #1 (Nov 2015)

Ms. Marvel #15 (Mar 1978)

Ms. Marvel #1 (Oct 2014)



### Ner Tamid

Mixed media

12" x 18"

2015

The Green Lanterns charge their power rings with — perhaps obviously — a green lantern, which is a never-diminished source of energy for their heroics. And so, this "eternal light" is made of cut-up Green Lantern comics.

Includes:

Green Lantern #165 (Jun 1983), #166 (Jul 1983), #50 (Mar 2010), #67 (Aug 2011), #15 (Feb 2013)

Green Lantern Corps #37 (Aug 2009), #14 (Jan 2013), #15 (Feb 2013)



### Jacob and Esav

Mixed media

18" x 24"

2013

The story of Jacob and Esav presents our patriarch as a trickster, who lies to his father to steal his brother's birthright. In August this papercut won a juror's award in the "Heroes & Villains" show at the Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center (affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution).

Includes:

Astonishing Thor #1 (Jan 2011)

Loki #1 (Dec 2000)

The Mighty Thor #449 (Jul 1992)

Thor #191 (Aug 1971), #342 (Apr 1985), #356 (Jun 1986), #394 (Aug 1988)

Thor: Ages of Thunder #1 (Jun 2008)

Thor: Giant-Size Finale #1 (Jan 2010)



### I Can Do This

Mixed media

11" x 14"

2015

In B'reshit (Genesis) 18: 9-16, Sarah is informed by visiting strangers that she will have a son, and she laughs at the thought, due to her advanced age — but it is from her that the next generation of Jews will spring. There is an intentional resonance between the form of this piece and traditional fertility idols., which includes cut-up pieces of Jessica Jones, a character who balances being a super hero with being a young mother.

Includes:

ODY-C #1 (Nov 2014), #2 (Dec 2014)

Promethea Book 5 (2005)

The Pulse #11 (Nov 2005), #12 (Jan 2006)



### You Only Think That

Mixed media

18" x 24"

2014

Made of cut-up war comics, this portrait of the Old City of Jerusalem is a mixture of sun-drenched golden walls and darker passageways and shadows. The presence of helicopters and jeeps and part of an ad for war-themed toys undermines the city's dream of peace.



### Masters of Mysticism

Mixed media  
18" x 24"  
2013

This scene reflects the winding roads in Tzfat, the city that was once the center of Jewish mysticism. Backed primarily with Dr. Strange and Dr. Fate comics (both mystics), it explores the contrast between the solid stone beneath our feet and the ideas that can lift us to a different plane of existence.

Includes:

Countdown to Mystery #1 (Nov 2007)  
Dr. Strange #181 (July 1969)  
Doctor Strange #65 (Jun 1984)  
The Eternals #4 (2008)  
The Immortal Doctor Fate #1 (Jan 1985)  
Last of the Greats #1 (Oct 2011), #5 (Feb 2012)  
Ultimate Secret #1 (May 2005)



### The Thicket

Mixed media  
18" x 24"  
2013

"The Thicket" captures the moment in the Binding of Isaac when Abraham finds a trapped ram and sacrifices it in place of his son. In the thicket we find both Isaac's confusion and Abraham's certainty. Note the presence of Loki, the Norse trickster god, as a comment on the nature of God's request and Abraham's response.

Includes:

Batman: The Dark Knight #4 (Feb 2012)  
Giant-Size Incredible Hulk #1 (Jul 2008)  
The Mighty Thor #324 (Apr 1984)  
Powerless (2005)  
Siege: Loki #1 (Jun 2010)  
Testament #1 (Feb 2006)  
War of the Gods #2 (Oct 1991)



### Tower of David

Mixed media  
24" x 36"  
2013

The Tower of David has no actual connection to King David, but it has come to represent him and his palace, and is on every Jerusalem tourist's list. There are pieces from Theodore Herzl's speech at the First Zionist Conference and from a traveler's phrasebook, underscoring the dichotomy between the history of Israel and the way these sites are experienced by the tourist.

Includes:

Aquaman #23.1 (Nov 2013)  
Green Lantern #23.3 (Nov 2013)  
The Infinite Horizon #4 (Sep 2011)  
Justice League #7.4 (Nov 2013)  
Secret #2 (Jun 2012)  
Wonder Woman #23.2 (Nov 2013)



### Tree of Knowledge

Mixed media  
24" x 36"  
2013

The "Tree of Knowledge" is inspired by a vision of Israel in its early years being planted with trees funded by Jews around the world. This tree is a representation of this bustling growth of the state, backed by cut-up dictionaries and representations of books and libraries from comics.

Includes:

Action Comics #23.1 (Nov 2013)  
The Authority [from Israel] (Aug 2010)  
Batman #23.3 (Nov 2013)  
Batman: The Dark Knight 23.2 (Nov 2013)  
The Flash #23.2 and #23.3 (Nov 2013)  
JLA: Liberty and Justice (Nov 2003)  
Popeye [from Israel] #58 (1972)  
Teen Titans #23.2 (Nov 2013)



### The Menorah

Mixed media  
18" x 24"  
2013

The Knesset Menorah is nearly a text, with scenes detailing the history of the Jewish people. In "The Menorah," cut-up scenes and speech bubbles from Daredevil comics stand in lieu of these stories.

Includes:

#4 (Dec 2002)  
Daredevil [vol 1] #107 (Jul 2008)  
Daredevil [vol 2] #56 (Mar 2004)  
Daredevil [vol 3] #14 (Aug 2012), #15 (Sep 2012), #16 (Oct 2012), #27 (Aug 2013)  
Powerless #3 (2005)  
Secret #1 (May 2012)  
Testament #9 (Oct 2006), #11 (Dec 2006)



### Higher and Higher

Mixed media  
18" x 24"  
2011

"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day the fountains of the deep burst apart, and the floodgates of the sky broke open" (Bereshit/Genesis 7:11). This papercut takes its name from one of the snippets of text in the background, which comes from a 1946 book of biblical commentary titled *Pathways Through the Bible*. The background is made of grayscale and limited-palette comics and a photograph from *National Geographic* magazine.

The Mishnah is the oldest authoritative post-biblical collection and codification of Jewish Oral Law, and dates back to the second century C.E. It consists of six orders, which are the foundation for this series. All the cuts in this series incorporate cut-up Daredevil and She-Hulk comics — superheroes who also work as lawyers.



### **Mishnah: Seeds**

Mixed media  
18" x 24"  
2014

The first order of the Mishnah deals with prayer and blessings, tithes, and agricultural laws. The Hebrew name is "Zera'im." I've built this papercut to resemble an aerial view of farms and fields. Among other comics, Seeds includes pieces of a Superman story (drawn by Alex Ross) in which he works his parents' Smallville farm.



### **Mishnah: Festival**

Mixed media  
18" x 24"  
2014

"Mo'ed" is the Hebrew name of the second order of the Mishnah, which addresses the laws of the Sabbath and the Festivals. I wanted this piece to reflect the orbital dance of our solar system that results in the changing of the seasons. The Silver Surfer can be found touring the orbital byways, and Captain Atom comics are also a source.



### **Mishnah: Women**

Mixed media  
18" x 24"  
2014

The third order — "Nashim" — concerns marriage and divorce; I've focused on the former, structuring the papercut as an Old Country shtetl wedding ring; it's really a love letter to my wife. I used the Silver Surfer to create the ring's silver texture — he volunteered to become a herald for Galactus in order to save his planet and the woman he loved.



### **Mishnah: Damages**

Mixed media  
18" x 24"  
2014

"Nezikin" is the fourth order, dealing with civil and criminal law, the courts, and oaths. I've modeled the cut as a giant sapphire, drawing from the midrash which tells us that Moses fashioned the Ten Commandments tablets from a giant sapphire he found at the top of Mount Sinai. The character of Star Sapphire (from Green Lantern comics) is used throughout.



### **Mishnah: Holy Things**

Mixed media  
18" x 24"  
2014

The fifth order is called "Kodashim," and is concerned with sacrificial rites and the Temple. In K'far Nahum, in the north of Israel, is the ruin of a synagogue with the image of a wheeled Ark of the Covenant, presumably to aid the Jews in taking it with them on their wanderings in the desert. The inside here is filled with laws concerning the building of the Temple.



### **Mishnah: Purities**

Mixed media  
18" x 24"  
2014

"Tehorot" is the sixth and final order of the Mishnah, and pertains to the laws of purity and impurity. I have built a mikveh — a bath for ritual immersion, filled with flowing water and entered via seven steps. The piece includes cut-up Wonder Woman and Moon Knight comics, as well as portions of comics titled *Revival* and *The Infinite Horizon*.