



New Work by Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik

September 11 - October 9, 2010 • Brave New World Comics



Incredible Tree

2010

10" x 13"

SOLD

The Incredible Tree [of Knowledge of Good and Evil] is an exploration of the two-sided nature of knowledge. When Adam and Eve sampled the fruit of this tree in the Garden of Eden, they gained the benefits of this knowledge, but they were banished from the Garden. Knowledge can lead to good or evil, just as the gamma rays — intended to further the cause of science — instead turn scientist Bruce Banner into the mindless Hulk. I've used Incredible Hulk comics to address this duality.

Incredible Hulk (Kirby)
Incredible Hulk: Tempest Fugit
Hulk #280
Secret Invasion
Marvel Triple Action #11
Defenders #41
World War Hulk
Hulk Annual #7 (Byrne)



Fountains of the Deep

2010

18" x 24"

SOLD

“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, all the fountains of the deep came bursting through, and the windows of heaven were opened. (Genesis 7:11).”

Genesis goes on to say that the waters increased, and the comics used here all emphasize the upward movement of the water as it lifts the ark, while two giraffes peek out at the tumult. There are small speech bubbles throughout that seem to tell parts of the story.

Flipper
Superboy
Aquaman
Sub-Mariner
ROM the Space Knight
Alpha Flight



The Flood

2010
10" x 13"



"The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. (Genesis 7:12)."

This papercut presents the relentless pounding of the waters falling from above, without surcease. The Hebrew word for water is "mayim," and for heavens, "sha-mayim"; the rabbis describe the flood as a time when the separation between "the waters below" and the "the waters above" was removed; the rain here resembles a solid wall of water falling upon the water below.

Aquaman (various)
Sub-Mariner (various)
Dark Reign: Punisher
Dark Avengers
Justice (Ross)



Theodore Herzl

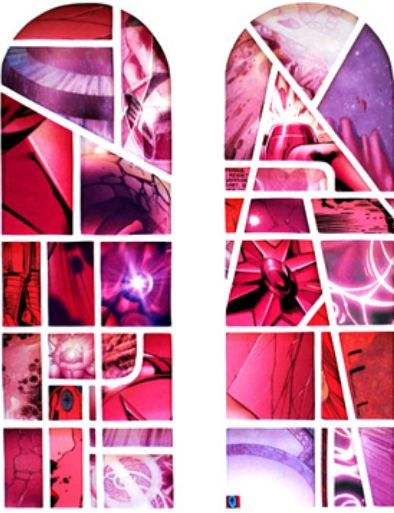
2010
10" x 13"

This portrait of Theodore Herzl is based on a famous photo of him in Basel in 1897 for the First Zionist Congress. I was inspired by his quote about building the State of Israel:

"Im tirtzu, ein zo agada."
"If you will it, it is no dream!"

The piece is backed with comic bits featuring Green Lantern, whose ring is powered by will.

Green Lantern (various)

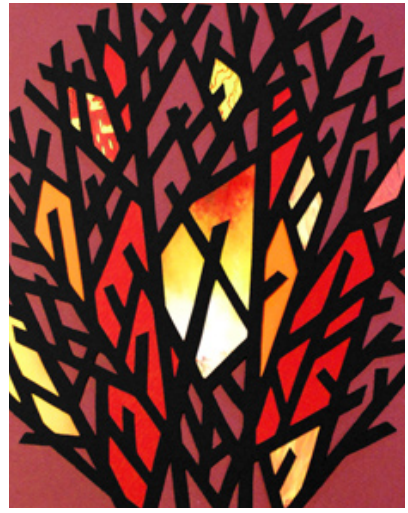


Sapphire Tablets

2010
10" x 13"

Midrash (Torah stories and commentary) tells us that the Ten Commandments given on Mount Sinai were carved out of an enormous sapphire, and so I've created this decalogue out of pieces of the comics character, 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. The "aleph" is most obvious, and the other letters become more and more abstract.

Green Lantern #20 (2007)
Sins of the Star Sapphire
Blackest Night



Burning Bush

2009
15" x 18"

SOLD

Exodus 3:2: "the bush burned with fire, and was not consumed."

The miracle of the Burning Bush that Moses found in the desert is not just that it burned and was not consumed; the miracle is that Moses stopped and looked at it long enough to *realize* that it was not being consumed — and only then did God speak to him. If you look long enough at this Burning Bush, you see the figure of the Human Torch as represented in various eras, by various artists. Like the bush, he burns but is not consumed; he is a conscious presence within the flame.

Human Torch (various)
Fantastic Four (various)



Aleph, Bet, Gimmel, X

2010

10" x 13"

SOLD

This is a bit of commentary on learning itself. The first three letters of the Hebrew alphabet overlap one another and frame sections of X-Men comics. The X-Men were started as a *beit midrash* (house of study) by Professor X, who hoped to school young mutants in the control and use of their powers.

X-Men (various)

The New Mutants (various)



His Deeds Will Not Be Forgiven Until He Merits

2010

10" x 10"

It is suggested by some aficionados of Jack "King" Kirby that his comic book pantheon known as The New Gods were an important (though uncredited) source for Star Wars, having preceded it by about six years. In this papercut I've shown Darth Vader backed by various representations of the Kirby character Darkseid (pronounced "Dark Side").

The title of this piece comes from a translation of the Hebrew on Darth Vader's chestplate.

New Gods #11

Forever People #6

Final Crisis



Trickster Coyote

2010
10" x 10"



Based on traditional Native American representations of huehuecoyotl, this papercut uses cut-up Loki comics as background texture, bringing together an ancient trickster with a comic book counterpart.

- Avengers #1 (Kirby)
- Thor 191 (Buscema/Lee)
- Thor (1984 — Simonson)
- Thor: Ages of Thunder
- Ringo Kid v1, #5 (1970)
- Hawkgirl #53
- Thor #356



Luachot haBrit

2010
20" x 20"

There are stories that the Ten Commandments were carved right through the rock of Mount Sinai itself, not just incised upon the surface. I've represented that by raising these tablets above the background, allowing light and shadow to perform a subtle dance across the stone textures of the cut-up comics.

- Shazam! (various)
- Fantastic Four
- Superman
- Top Ten (Moore)



Parting of the Red Sea

2010
10" x 13"



One of the most stunning moments of the Exodus from Egypt was the crossing of the Red Sea. Moses raised his staff and, as we read in Exodus chapter 14, “the waters formed a wall for them on their right and on their left.” The Israelites walked on dry land while the walls of water towered over them, blocking all else from view. From their vantage point, all was water, and that’s what I’ve conveyed with towering walls of comic book water.

Fantastic Four (Kirby)
Namor #44
Superboy
Sub-Mariner #5 (Buscema)
Aquaman O (1994)
Sub-Mariner Comics #1 (2009)



Pillar of Cloud

2010
8" x 16"

After the Israelites escaped from Egypt they wandered in the desert for forty years. By day, they were guided and guarded by a Pillar of Cloud, as we read in Exodus 13:21: “And Adonai went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way.”

Superman (various)
Wonder Woman (various)
Fantastic Four (various)



Pillar of Fire

2010
8" x 16"

SOLD

While the Israelites were living in the desert on their way from slavery to freedom, they were guarded at night by a Pillar of Fire, as we read in Exodus 13:21: "... and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light."

Fantastic Four (various)
Human Torch (various)
Firestorm
X-Men (Phoenix Saga)



Revelation

2010
18" x 24"

In Exodus 19:18 we read about the e entire Torah, at Mount Sinai: "Smoke rose from the mountain like the smoke from a kiln." Mount Sinai as kiln implies that the giving of the Torah and the covenant that came with it was a creation, of sorts; the people have come to Sinai as unfinished vessels, and they emerge from the fire ready to become a nation.

Shazam! (various)
Jonni Thunder AKA Thunderbolt
Black Lightning #1
Outsiders (various)
Jutice (Ross)
Flash (various)



The Raven

2010

10" x 13"

SOLD

When the rain stops, Noah sends out a raven to see if there is yet dry land upon which to land the ark. We read in Genesis 8:7 that the raven flies “to and fro” and does not return to Noah; the rabbis interpret the raven’s behavior as intentionally ambiguous, suggesting that “to and fro” could refer to arguments between the raven and Noah. The raven is considered a trickster in some Native American cultures, which may confirm this odd biblical behavior.

Teen Titans 13

New Teen Titans #25 (1982)

Justice League (1987)

Hawkman #13 (Zero Hour)

JLA: Paradise Lost

The Fly

Justice Society

Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik

figures he's purchased about 500 comics this year from Brave New World Comics. He brought a lot of them back — cut up into little pieces — for his new exhibition, “You did WHAT to my comics!?!”

He is married to his high-school sweetheart, who is now a rabbi; they have three daughters who think he's a superhero. He spends his weekends hanging out at Brave New World with his wife (when she gives in) and his daughters (when *he* gives in).

Brynjegard-Bialik has been cutting paper for 15 years; he's been reading comics a lot longer.