

Art Reception 1-3 pm on January 6, 2019

Please join us for a reception celebrating a dual exhibition of recent works by Francesca Pelaggi and Michael Shacham, will be held on Sunday, January 6, 2019 from 1 pm to 3 pm The Linda Grandis Blatt Gallery of Temple B'nai Or, 60 Overlook Road, Morristown. Refreshments will be served. A portion of the purchase price of all works sold benefits the Temple.

This dual artist exhibition of Ms. Pelaggi's "Passions" and Mr. Shacham's "Menorahs," runs through January 27, 2019. Gallery hours are during Temple B'nai Or functions and by appointment during business hours, Monday through Friday. Please call or text (973) 532-2268 or email tbogallery@gmail.com to arrange a private viewing.

Francesca Pelaggi's "Passions" reflects realism as she sees it, in acrylic paints and pastels. Her goal is to relay her vision, passion and emotional connection to the subject matter through carefully planned compositional elements, accurate depiction of form and purposeful rendering for the observer to understand the intent of each work and to connect with it. "It is important to me that my work gives the viewer a sense of warmth and reflection. Be it landscape, still life, figurative, or portrait, all have enticing elements which I will continue to explore." She works from life as much as possible and reference photos, composing the subject matter to portray the objects' beauty and unique textural quality brought forth through a technical approach of drawing accuracy and the delicate balance of light and shadows.

Ms. Pelaggi employs the chiaroscuro technique of old European masters for underpainting in acrylics and adds vibrant colors to bring them to life. Her pastels incorporate loose application of the medium with some refinement in places and vivid colors from impressionistic influence.

Michael Shacham's "Menorahs" demonstrates the beauty with which Jewish families can create a sacred space in their homes and with which synagogues can enhance their sacred space during the joyous holiday of Chanukah. Mr. Shacham, an experienced sculptor has rendered these works of art in bronze, celebrating the permanence of these vehicles of spirituality.

Mr. Shacham has been using traditional designs as a starting point in creating these Menorahs, then taking them to a new place artistically. He has, for example, created more realistic sculpted lions and used the eternal flame as motifs. Included is a menorah of historical significance – it is over 100 years old.

About Francesca Pelaggi

Francesca Pelaggi is a contemporary representational painter who utilizes techniques from old masters of the late 19th thru early 20th centuries.

Francesca, from a young age, has always loved creating art and has done so for over 35 years of art. She also has 15 years of teaching experience. She pursued her passion as a student at Du Crete School of Art, Ringling College of Art & Design the School of Visual Arts, where she earned a BFA in Illustration and a concentration using acrylics and pastels. Initially, her interest was mural painting, using acrylics in the traditional brush method as well as airbrush. She enjoyed transforming large spaces into a unique, one of a kind atmosphere. Her murals decorate many residential and commercial spaces throughout NJ.

Later in her artistic career she adopted monument engraving, being attracted to the opportunity to apply her drawing capabilities. She finds it to be artistically stimulating and challenging and has continued using the medium.

Francesca's current concentration on producing finer pieces has grown over the years. She uses acrylic, pastels and all drawing mediums in works ranging from landscapes, still life and figurative to portraits.

Francesca enjoys sharing her passion and experience with others, teaching children and adults, from beginner to advanced, in various media, including pastels, acrylic, watercolor, drawing and clays. She teaches the fundamentals of perspective, form, value, atmospheric and light effects as well as composition and conceptual thinking. Francesca currently teaches at the Morris Museum, Morris County Art Association and after school enrichment classes as well as private lessons.

Ms. Pelaggi is represented by the ACL Gallery, Livingston NJ. She has shown at various group exhibitions in New Jersey. Her artwork appears in many residential and commercial spaces and is held in several private collections. She is a member of the PSNJ, Art Centre at Riker Hill, Riker Hill Art Park.

About Michael Shacham

Michael Shacham was born in New York City, grew up on Kibbutz Sdot Yam in Israel and eventually returned to the United States. He started learning sculpture at a very early age, being encouraged by his grandfather, Samuel Persoff, himself a professional artist. He studied as an apprentice to Israeli Sculptors Y. Shemi, and later with I. Danziger. He continued his studies at the Art Students League of New York and at the New School.

Returning to Israel at the end of 1966, Michael built the first successful art bronze foundry in Israel, still operating today under the name of AP Casting. In 1974 he returned to working as a sculptor full time, following several years of military service in the Israeli army.

Michael had his first one man show in 1967 at a Gallery in Tel Aviv, Israel. He has since shown his work in Israel, Europe and in the USA, resulting in a large number of sculptures in private and public collections both here and overseas. Mr. Shacham has also won several public commissions including "The Dolphins", currently at the Metroplex West in East Hanover, NJ and the Long Beach Island library, "Birds in Flight" at Metroplex II, "The Memorial for the Unknown Soldier" in Israel, and the "Holocaust Torah" relief, commissioned by Temple B'nai Or in Morristown, NJ and unveiled on March 31, 2000. In 2015 Mr. Shacham carved the "Shema" prayer in 10 inch walnut Hebrew letters for Temple Adath Shalom in Morris Plains, NJ.

Mr. Shacham teaches sculpture at the Morris County Art Association and at the American Woodcarving School. He has also taught at Ramapo College and privately. While most of his work is pure sculpture, he has created some Judaic work such as torah crowns, sculpted jewelry and Menorahs, several of which are displayed in this exhibition.

About The Linda Grandis Blatt Gallery

The Linda Grandis Blatt Gallery of Temple B'nai Or is located at 60 Overlook Road, Morristown, NJ 07960. The Gallery was made possible in 2009 by a grant from Bill Blatt in memory of his beloved wife, Linda, to create a welcoming portal into the sacred space of the synagogue for both members and non-members.

The venue's light and airy space benefits from natural light as well as fixtures. Centrally located within the building, the Gallery is a focal point of the community, frequented by students, meetings and events hosted by various congregation groups on a regular basis and people gathering to chat informally, as well as those who attend weekly religious services.

A committee of volunteers from the congregation mounts six exhibitions per year. The committee juries artists for each exhibition and strives to present uniformly high quality art that is diverse in approach, medium and theme. Artists are welcome to submit images of their artwork for consideration. For additional information, please email tbogallery@gmail.com.

Temple B'nai Or is a Reform Jewish congregation and a welcoming, diverse and caring community.

For more information on Francesca Pelaggi, please visit www.francescapelaggi.com

For more information on Michael Shacham, please visit shachambronze.us

For more information on Temple B'nai Or, please visit www.templebnaior.org