

Artist Statement

I created this series to tell my family's Jewish story and perhaps shine a new light on what Judaic art could look like. In these deeply personal paintings and narratives, I look at who and what shaped my distinctly North American brand of Jewish identity. Inspired by vintage family photos, each oil painting has a Jewish reflection. Some of the stories are joyful recollections of the Judaism of my youth including my experiences at Jewish summer camp, Purim carnivals, or teen tours of Israel. Others speak to my family's history, such as the acculturation process experienced by my grandparents who arrived in Canada after the Holocaust. I looked at my observances – the traditions I've kept, the ones I've altered to better suit my family's current needs, and the ones I wrestle with. Every seemingly simple Jewish moment I painted had a story.

The Rissman Kol Ami Collection is a unique collection of Jewish art, artifacts and ritual objects. In addition to preserving significant objects for posterity, the museum seeks to develop programs and exhibitions that are designed to educate the congregation and promote an appreciation for works of Judaica.

For more images and information about the artist and her work, please visit Jacqueline Kott-Wolle' website at:
www.paintingsbyjacquelinekottwolle.com



1175 Sheridan Road, Highland Park
60035

Growing Up Jewish: Art and Storytelling

Jacqueline Kott-Wolle



March 15 – June 1, 2020

The Rissman Kol Ami Collection at
North Suburban Synagogue Beth El

About the Artist



Jacqueline Kott-Wolle lives in Highland Park where she paints full time. Born and raised in Toronto, Canada, Jacqueline has always enjoyed creative pursuits.

Although she holds a Master of Social Work degree with a specialization in Community Development and Social Planning, Jacqueline managed to incorporate the arts in almost every professional position she has held. In her capacity as Executive Director of MAZON Canada, The Jewish Response to Hunger (1997-2004) she planned community art exhibits and art contests for students. In 2005, after moving to Chicago with her family, Jacqueline fulfilled a long-time goal of pursuing her desire to paint by taking many classes at The Art Center of Highland Park. She currently paints in oils and has been focusing on both landscapes and works that have more sentimental value, capturing precious moments with her family. *Growing Up Jewish: Art and Storytelling* features Jewish moments from her childhood and accompanying narratives to explore her evolving Jewish identity. Jacqueline's works are in private collections in the Chicagoland area, Milwaukee, Boca Raton, Nantucket, Kiawah Island, Canada, and Israel.

Themes Covered In The Works



The Synagogue



Holidays, Observances and Shabbat



Grandparents and Family



Immigration, Integration & Acculturation



Business, Education and Opportunity



Vacations, Summer Camp and Leisure



The Holocaust – In the Shadow of the Past



Israel and Zionism



Tradition and Change



The Future