



Lilach Schrag is an Israeli-born Chicago-based artist who studies texts and fuses traditional and industrial art methods and materials to create contemporary visual interpretations.

From large-scale drawings and paintings to metal sculptures and short videos – she utilizes a wide range of materials to study themes related to transformative existence.

Lilach graduated from Hamidrasha Art School in Israel and holds a Master of Arts in Jewish Professional Studies from Spertus Institute, Chicago. She is affiliated with Dialogue Chicago critique group and facilitates Midwest Artists Retreats. Her work has been featured in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Jerusalem Post*, *Yediot Aharonot*, and other publications.

Lilach has exhibited art in solo and group shows in Israel and the United States including: Bridgeport and Beverly Art Centers and 33 Contemporary Gallery in Chicago as well as the Janco Dada Museum, Tova Osman Gallery, and the Jerusalem Biennale in Israel.

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.

North Suburban Synagogue
Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל
Rissman Kol Ami Collection

1175 Sheridan Road, Highland Park 60035

CONSIDER THIS MY PRAYER

LILACH SCHRAG



January 11 – March 9, 2019

**The Rissman Kol Ami Collection at
North Suburban Synagogue Beth El**

I study myths and legends that feature transformative encounters and even magic. My visual interpretations of these tales highlight physical activity and strength as a metaphor for psychological process.



My go-to creative playground is nature: majestic and functional at the same time,

and filled with beauty intertwined with decay. This duality, contradiction, and recurrence provides rich background for my work. I often create outdoors, fusing methods and materials common in domestic or farm work with those found in traditional art.



Growing up on a farm and teaching art for many years have shaped the way I approach art

making. I feel compelled to combine knowledge with experience, purpose with intuition and experimentation, efficiency with grace. I revel in getting on my knees to work in dirt, perfecting the rhythm in the motion of my body, and having juicy conversations about art.



In this exhibit, I use art to study complex characters from Jewish texts such as Elijah, Lilith, and the Golem. I discover their mystery and charisma. They are tormented but also able to generate magic and transformation. I walk into the woods, step into the lake, or crawl in the sand to

experience tenderness, introspection, immersion, process, and shelter.

Art is an act of necessity, and an active prayer. Just like prayer, it is a way to hope and learn to seek truth and meaning, make peace, engage in a dialogue with self and a higher cause, and gain perspective that can both alleviate and challenge.



I am honored to have the opportunity to show my artwork in the Rissman Kol Ami Collection gallery and share my visual Midrash with my community. Beth El's seven decades of rich tradition, intellectual

wonder, and commitment to spirituality echo from the old walls and shed a special light on my work. In this light, please consider this my prayer.

Here is a selection of QR codes you can scan after Shabbat to watch videos related to this exhibit:



THE HOPE



INTROSPECTION



SHELTER



WHITE GOLEM



GOLEM SON



BROWN GOLEM

For more images and information, please visit Lilach Schrag's website at lilachschrag.com or scan this QR code.

