

For Immediate Release

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Chutzpah ~ Creating a Body of Work, without a Body.

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Hampton Roads, VA - Linda Gissen is the embodiment of Chutzpah! She has created a new body of work without use of her body. This veteran artist has a new lease on life – creating a new collection Judaic artwork specifically for Women and Girls.

Linda has an impressive 55-year career as a sculptor featuring her art in galleries all over the world. Seven years ago Linda lost the use of her muscles from a debilitating motor neuron condition. Today Linda's body no longer responds but her extremely creative mind is thriving, prompting her to pursue a life long dream of creating new artwork; Ceremonial Judaica, for Women and Girls.

With the help of Linda's talented team, artists Chris Carlson and Talyn Strum, she has envisioned, designed and created new ceremonial Judaic artwork, inspired by the Women of the Bible.

"I'm a feminist," says Linda, "make no bones about it. As a Jewish woman and as an academically trained cultural anthropologist and sociologist, it has struck me since childhood of the inequality for women and girls in Jewish communal life. Women and Girls should have a way to make their religion personnel to them."

Linda's new collection of artwork includes a her *Women of the Bible* series, bronze *Miriam's Cup*, *Matriarch Yad*, *Purim Flag* depicting Vashti and Esther's legacy, *Matriarch Mezuzah* - all inspired by and created for Women.

Gissen shares "I designed the pieces to have form and function for women who want to participate in all aspects of Judaism and don't feel they need to change their ways to fully participate in ceremonial occasions."

Throughout Linda's career she pioneered Judaic artwork. When no one wanted to talk about the Holocaust, she immortalized it with powerful works of art. In 1987 she created *Lest We Forget*, a undulating, hand-sculpted, bronze barbed wire imploring the viewer to heed the lessons of the Holocaust lest they be repeated.

Many of Gissen's sculptures are in permanent collections. One of her most acclaimed pieces '*Rachel Weeping for her Children*' was commissioned by the late Bishop Walter Sullivan, former head of the Richmond Diocese. This striking 11-foot bronze and copper Holocaust Memorial sculpture is proudly displayed at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond, VA.

Many of Linda Gissen's original sculptures are now available for exhibition. Gissen invites Museum and Galleries worldwide to curate their own exhibits with her amazing body of work. Linda new Ceremonial Judaica will be offered for purchase to compliment upcoming exhibitions.

For a comprehensive list of her new Ceremonial Judaica and curatable artwork please visit website www.lindagissen.com. For more information or to set up an interview with Linda Gissen please contact Publicist D'Arcy Weiss at connect@lindagissen.com.

LINDA GISSEN
COLLECTION



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