

**James S. Cohen  
Jim Cohen Judaica  
jimcohenjudaica.com**

### **Statement**

Much of my work deals primarily with line and line quality. I look to make a line, through manipulation by hand or hammer, come alive in original forms. I strive for lines that breathe life into objects and give viewer's a new life experience: discovering anew objects by embracing their whimsy, aesthetic and function.

My judaica strives to keep traditional ritual concepts alive through contemporary design motifs. The viewer/user is challenged to appreciate the objects on multiple levels, aesthetic, utilitarian, and ritual.

### **Training**

From 1993-1997 my training in metals came through community art centers such as the Torpedo Factory, Alexandria, VA, and Thomas Jefferson Art Center, Arlington, VA. These were supplemented by attendance at Penland, Arrowmont, and Craftsummer, as well as local guild workshops. I received a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2004.

### **Selected Shows and Exhibitions**

Over the past ten years I participated in exhibitions in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Additionally, I participated in retail craft shows in California, Florida, Georgia, New York, Minnesota, North Carolina, Washington, DC, and Canada.

### **Museums and Synagogues**

Mizel Museum, Denver, CO

Migwan, Basel, Switzerland - Yad

Congregation Or Chadash, Scottsdale, AZ - Torah Crowns

Shaarie Shamyim, Madison WI - Yads

Temple Har Sinai, Owings Mills, MD - Holocaust Torah Breastplate

Temple Har Shalom, Park City, UT - Five Books Torah Breastplate, Torah Crowns

## **Awards and Publications**

2011 Niche Award Finalist-Judaica

2006 Niche Award Finalist-Hollowware

2004 Niche Award Winner-Judaica

2004 Niche Award Finalist-Judaica

2004 Niche Award Finalist-Hollowware

Artist Profile, Niche Magazine, Winter 2014

"500 Judaica"

"500 Handmade Books"

"500 Earrings"

"1000 Rings"

"Court Adjourned for Crafts," Atlanta Jewish Times, March 9, 2007

"Metalwork 2006"

Craft Magazine, June/July 2004

"Refined III", 2004

"Off the Shelf, Under the Influence," 2003

"Texas National, 2003," 2003

"Metalwork, 2002," 2002

"Metalwork, 2000," 2000

"Metalwork '96," 1996

## **Related Experience**

2015 - Speaker Yom Limmud (Day of Learning), Northern New Mexico Jewish Community

2015 - Speaker, Craft in America, "Jewish Identity and the Historical Continuum of American Metal Judaica", Los Angeles, CA

2015 - Speaker, "What it Means to Go to War, and What it Means to Heal: A Jewish Perspective", Jewish Wisdom and Welfare Festival, Los Angeles, Ca

2012-present Adjunct Professor, University of New Mexico, Taos

2012- 2014 President, American Guild of Judaic Art

2011-2013 President, New Mexico Metalsmiths Guild

2002-2006 Member, Board of Directors, Society of North American Goldsmiths.

2001 Researcher, "Tevet to Av, Celebrating Contemporary Judaica," University of Wisconsin-Madison.

