Anita Rabinoff-Goldman - HerStory



I have always sewn, having learned as a little girl. But, in 1971, on hiatus from college, I went to see an exhibit of quilts presented as modern art at the Whitney Museum in NYC. Once I saw that, I knew it was something I wanted to do. I returned to college, finished up my degree in art and once I settled down a bit, took my first quilting class. It took me a while to get beyond using traditional patterns but eventually I began to see quilting as an expressive medium with fabric as my paints. I generally like to work in series and over the years I have explored mandalas, self-portraits, topical pieces, portraits and aerial landscapes.

For a number of years, I had a Judaic fiber arts business creating tallises (ritual prayer shawls) and Torah mantles in addition to other ritual items and Judaic-themed art. I incorporated many of the same techniques used in my quilts into these pieces.

Between September 2017 and October 2018 (corresponding on the Jewish calendar to 5778), I created a body of work entitled "Seeing Torah." Briefly, over the course of that year, each week I read one portion of the Torah (Old Testament), read relevant commentaries, and created 54 small (11" square) quilted visual responses, reflecting a year's worth of study and exploration. More information about the project is in an article that appeared in B'nai B'rith Magazine. The article can be found at https://www.bnaibrith.org/seeing-torah.html. There is also information about it on my website: www.anitarabinoff-goldman.com

Starting this October, the project will be posted, week-by-week, on Instagram at seeingtorah. I am also planning an exhibit of the entire collection which will open in Newton this February, 2020 and hopefully in New York next fall. A few images from the collection are shown here.

Most recently, I have been painting and thinking about how I can integrate the action of painting with the art of quilting. I have also started thinking more about surface design and creating imagery on fabric through printmaking techniques. I'm not sure where I'm going with it all but I'm enjoying the ride.



