

BENNY FERDMAN

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1985 - Present CREATIVE WAYS, Los Angeles - Co-founder and Artistic-Director. Developer of interactive exhibitions, interdisciplinary art programs, teacher training workshops and curricular materials for schools, museums & organizations.

2002 – Present NEW COMMUNITY JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL, Los Angeles
Arts Director, Artist-in-Residence.

SELECT SHOWS / INSTALLATIONS

2009 SHALOM INSTITUTE CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER, Los Angeles--
HaMavdil—Large, outdoor sculpture inspired by spice box motifs. Made from branches and metal.

2009 NACHSHON MINYAN, Los Angeles—Created installation, incorporating flag motifs and Yiddish words, to transform the Sanctuary.

2007 /2008 EMET GALLERY, Montreal & KOFFLER CENTER OF THE ARTS, Toronto —
“**Shout in the Ears of Jerusalem**” Solo exhibition of art work /installations created and documented in a Jerusalem field.

2006 MAKOR/SOURCE—Group Exhibition of the Jewish Artists Initiative, USC Hillel & UCLA Hillel

2004 THEODORE BIKEL’s 80th Birthday Concert at Veteran’s Memorial Hall, Los Angeles
—Designed stage set and sculptural backdrop.

2001- 2002 MILKEN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, Los Angeles
Sculpture Commission, Artist-in-Residence. Created large outdoor sculpture titled “Tzim-Tzum” based on the giant circular fish known as the “Leviatan”, and the theme of ‘rites of passage’ (in collaboration with students.)

2002 JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL—Art commission for annual poster distributed for National Jewish Book Month.

2002 BETH EMET SYNAGOGUE, Los Angeles—Commission to create two new large paintings for the sanctuary; redesign of interior entry lobby and

2000 SANTA FE COLLEGE OF ART, New Mexico, “Jewish Artists on the Edge.” Group show Albuquerque Museum of Fine Art, Yeshiva University Museum, NYC.

1997 SKIRBALL MUSEUM, Los Angeles “Honored Guests” An interactive gallery installation for families to complement the exhibit *Temporary Quarters: Artists Create for Shelter and Celebration*

1995/96 MURAL COMMISSION, P.S. 57, Staten Island, NY— *Protect and be Protected*,
Funded by a grant from the Council of Arts and Humanities of S. I.

1989/87 NEWHOUSE GALLERY FOR CONTEMPORARY ART AT SNUG HARBOR, Staten Island, NY
The Staten Island Invitational" and "The Director's Invitational" (Curated by John Perreault)

1988 ST. GEORGE FERRY TERMINAL, Staten Island, NY-- *Face to Face: Portraits in Transit*, installation of 6 ft. tall sculpted faces and narratives portraying six ferry riders. Funded by a grant from the Staten Island Arts Council.

1986 UNITED ODDFELLOWS & REBEKAH HOUSE NURSING HOME, Bronx, NY-- Mural Commission: *The Sum of Memories*.

EXHIBIT DEVELOPMENT /ART & EDUCATION PROGRAMS

2009 FROM OUR FAMILY ALBUM: Tel Aviv 100—Co-Curated and designed this exhibition marking the centennial of the founding of the city of Tel Aviv. This exhibition illuminated the life of a young city building and defining itself from 1909 through interactive experiences developed by Creative Ways and photographs of Tel Aviv culled from family albums as part of “Revealing the Hidden City,” a project initiated by the Tel Aviv Municipality. Exhibited at the Finegood Gallery, Milken JCC, L. A. .

2007 VUNDER IBER VUNDER---Redesign of the Jewish Heritage Center at Workmen’s Circle Camp Kinder Ring, including interactive artwork, a unique “wonder cabinet” as a focal point for Jewish culture and nature programs, a new art installation titled “Leviatan” and four new curriculum trunks with arts and culture programs on Yiddish culture.

2005 WITH STONE SHOES: The Ethiopian Jewish Journey—Co-Developed, designed, curated and fabricated this 2500 sq. foot interactive exhibit. Jewish Federation, Detroit.

2005 CLOTHESLINE EXHIBIT: Designed and curated this exhibit of embellished t-shirts created by victims and child witnesses of domestic violence in order to visually tell their stories.

2004 STILL LISTENING: 150 Years of Jewish Family Service—Co-curated, designed and fabricated this multi-media exhibit celebrating the 150th anniversary of L.A.’s oldest and largest social service agency. Included original artwork commissioned from local artists interpreting case studies of those who were helped by JFS & a giant wall of text telling these stories. Exhibited at Skirball Museum’s Ruby Gallery.

2001-2003 PASSAGEWAYS: Growing Up in the World- Co-produced, designed and fabricated traveling, interactive exhibition/art installation on global “rites of passage.” Exhibited at public sites in Israel in partnership with the Israeli arts organization Art for the People. Funded by the Alan B. Slifka Foundation.

2002 ONE WORLD DINER- Designed and fabricated this kid-scale diner exhibit which invites families to learn about culture by exploring diverse food traditions. (Purchased by the Collage Children’s Museum, Boulder, Colorado & Children’s Museum of the Highlands, Florida.)

2002 JAPANESE-AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM –Developed interactive gallery installation for the exhibition *Crafting History: Art from America’s Concentration Camps*.

2000 Israel MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY--Hebrew University- “War & Peace in Nature” Developed the “hands-on” interactive exhibits and design concepts for this new exhibit.

1996-1999 ZIMMER DISCOVERY PLACE CHILDREN’S MUSEUM, Los Angeles Exhibit Developer, Designer and Fabricator. Created thirteen on-site and traveling exhibits.

1992-96 CITYLORE: The NYC Center for Urban Folk Lore, Ongoing consultancy developing and conducting workshops on themes of cultural identity and community.

1994 ISRAEL ASSOCIATION FOR ETHIOPIAN JEWS, Jerusalem--

Co-directed Ethiopian Performance Project: *With Stone Shoes*. Fourteen Ethiopian performers used theater, dance and music to educate audiences about Ethiopian Jewish culture.

1991 TOUCHING HOME—Developed multicultural art and oral history project exploring how New York City's ethnic communities preserve, adapt and share their cultural heritage. 4th and 5th graders visited one of fourteen communities, conducting interviews & visiting significant places. In class they created six foot tall house-like sculptures expressing each community and culture. Sponsored by, and exhibited at the Staten Island Children's Museum. *Winner of The NY Daily News "1991 Increase the Peace Award."*

1988 CLOSE ENCOUNTERS (OF A HUMAN KIND)-- Multicultural dialogue project conducted in Montreal with over 300 children. A 30 foot map of Montreal, with community landmarks, was constructed by students in English and French speaking schools. Fifth graders visited six ethnic communities and sculpted life size portraits (with talking video-heads) of people they interviewed.

1987-91 ARTS PARTNERS INTERGENERATIONAL ART PROGRAMS & CITY LORE—NYC CENTER FOR URBAN FOLK LORE, New York, Conducted city-wide art and writing program for children and senior citizens as well as teacher training workshops.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, CONFERENCES, PUBLICATIONS

1992-94 Fellowship for Senior Educators, HEBREW UNIVERSITY, JERUSALEM—MELTON CENTRE FOR JEWISH EDUCATION IN THE DIASPORA.

Developed “ **Vessels of Meaning: Integrating Art and Imagination into Education.**”—Teacher training workshop, and curricular materials which use the arts and creative thinking to vitalize learning in formal and informal educational settings. Ongoing.

1994 MEMORIAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE, NY -- Received grant for development *Vessels of Meaning*.

1994 THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON JEWISH ART, Hebrew University
Paper given about recent paintings.

PUBLICATIONS

2009 SHMA –A Journal of Jewish Responsibility—Publication of “The Garage”—a printed piece/artwork.

1993 PUBLICATION: *Nourishing the Heart—A Guide to Intergenerational Arts Project in the Schools.* Teacher's guidebook by Benny Ferdman and Shari Davis. Published by *City Lore: The NYC Center for Urban Folklore*.

EDUCATION

Massachusetts College of Art, BFA 1977;

Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Graduate Fellowship Senior Educators Program, 1992-94

