

## Hillel Smith

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[www.hillelsmith.info](http://www.hillelsmith.info)

424-645-4555

### STATEMENT

I revel in taking the familiar and bringing to it the unexpected. Surprise, whimsy, and humor are what makes art enjoyable to me, but without losing sight of craft and technique. Trained in drawing and painting, and now a graphic design professional, I create figurative works and typographic pieces with an ever-present twist. I love combining disparate elements, including hidden messages, and creating otherwise ordinary objects out of unconventional materials. I'm fascinated by the interplay between old and new, boldness and subtlety, order and chaos.

After experimenting with silkscreen, I began creating work with spray paint and stencils. Stenciling allows me to indulge my precise designer habits, while spray paint requires me to let go and accept the uncontrollable. Like silkscreen, spray paint stencils allow for flat colors, clean lines, and an emphasis on form and construction. Working digitally further allows me to embrace my affinities for geometry and optical effects.

Growing up, I believed all Jewish art was ugly and stale. Discovering luminaries of generations past who infused their Judaism with the zeitgeist, I was encouraged to meld my interests in typography and contemporary trends in digital design and street art with my background in Jewish text and tradition. I aim to make Jewish work that is current, challenging, beautiful, and compelling.

### EDUCATION

**University of Pennsylvania** | Philadelphia

BA: Visual Studies major, Fine Arts concentration; Magna Cum Laude

### SELECT SHOWS

- 2015 Tzedakah Saves from Death | HUC-JIR, Los Angeles (ongoing)
- 2014 The Art & Stuff of Will Deutsch, Corrie Siegel, Hillel Smith | NCJW, Los Angeles  
Shmattes | Brown/RISD Hillel, Providence (touring)  
Culture Lab: Oil (with Julie Schustack, Corrie Siegel, Jonathan Skurnik) | SIJCC, Los Angeles
- 2013 Sacred Words, Sacred Text | USC Hillel, Los Angeles
- 2012 Deeply Rooted | Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles  
Art Bang! | Bagavagabonds, Los Angeles
- 2011 We the People | Le Spec, Los Angeles  
Urban Masters | Hive Gallery, Los Angeles  
Wizards are the Future | Gallows Gallery, Los Angeles  
Time Art Explosion | Bagavagabonds, Los Angeles
- 2010 Dream Art Explosion | Bagavagabonds, Los Angeles
- 2009 Stoked Sessions LA | Upper Playground, Los Angeles

### FELLOWSHIPS /GRANTS

- NEI Grant | Next Gen Engagement Initiative, Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles
- Asylum Arts Grant | Asylum Arts
- Culture Lab Fellowship | SIJCC
- Seder Arts Micgrant | NuART