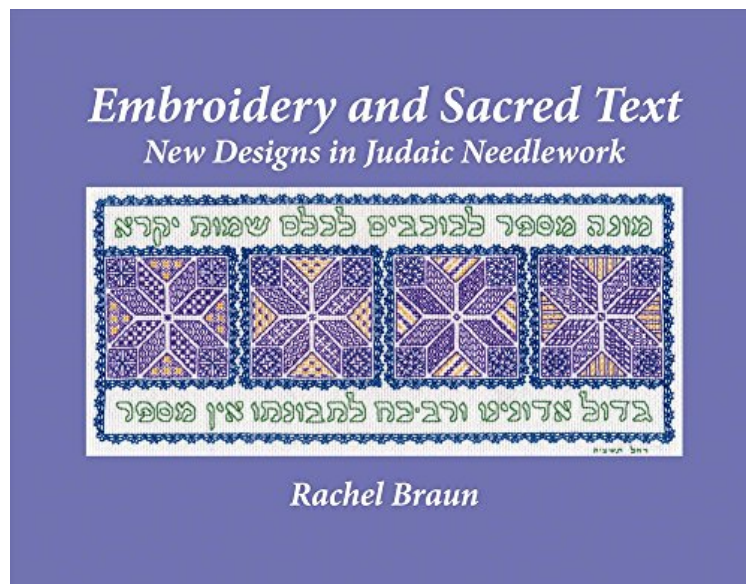


Embroidery and Sacred Text: New Designs in Judaic Needlework

Rachel Braun

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#901098 in Books Ingramcontent 2016-12-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.00 x .20 x 9.00l, #File Name: 148358500X82 pagesEmbroidery and Sacred Text New Designs in Judaic Needlework | File size: 75.Mb

Rachel Braun : Embroidery and Sacred Text: New Designs in Judaic Needlework before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Embroidery and Sacred Text: New Designs in Judaic Needlework:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Braun Gives Refreshing New Form to Biblical TextBy stillAs an art historian I've looked at many many naturalistic and abstract biblical images. I marvel at the forms Rachel Braun gives to biblical passages and other sacred text. One of my favorites is "Jacobs Ladder" [pp. 44-45], which has been portrayed by countless Western artists, including William Blake, Marc Chagall, and Helen Frankenthaler in the modern period. Braun created a seemingly simple design of a diagonal ladder extending to the heavens. Her visualization takes on added resonance as her discussion on the accompanying page urges us to look more closely like she did. Ultimately our close looking is rewarded. In fact, we learn that some of her varied blackwork stitchery is actually biblical text rendered in Hebrew script: For example, "Along the left edge of the embroidery design we see [in Hebrew script], 'He dreamt: a ladder was set on the ground and its top reached the sky ... and the Lord was standing beside him' (Genesis 28: 12-13)..." I'll leave Braun's discussion of "The Mathematical Basis of Blackwork" to others; I also encourage those interested in graphic design, including text and image to enjoy Braun's carefully considered original and pleasing images and text. You will be rewarded.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful to see, stimulating to read and a pleasure to own. I'm so glad I ordered this book!By Elena RodriguezI loved this book! As a cross stitcher myself, I can really appreciate the time and effort put in to the design and execution of these beautiful pieces. There aren't many cross stitch Judaica designs available and the beauty and elegance of these pieces is inspiring. I enjoyed learning about the concept of blackwork and how the author has substituted many subtle colors for the black.I love the creativity shown in the various elements of her designs - one that particularly stands out to me is the design for the progressively increasing hailstones in the God Sees the Sky design.The Jewish scholarship

behind the text and visual choices is impressive and thought provoking. And the MATH - the amazing beauty of the MATH! What an incredible way to pull together all these elements. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Multi-layered Work of Art! By Norma Brooks The exquisite designs in this book are truly outstanding. If the book only had these works of art, "Dayenu!" However, there is so much more. The biblical text that inspired each work and Rachel Braun's elaborations about the complex and nuanced textual relationships is so enriching. Each text and work of art is set within a graphic design that always enhances her work. This is truly a book in a league of its own. Magnificent!

Embroidery and Sacred Text introduces nineteen new designs in Judaic and Biblical embroidery, in stunning photographs of Rachel Brauns original and colorful needlework. The author has embellished sacred texts from liturgy, piyyut (prayerful poetry) and Bible in creating her designs, in embroidery canvasses stitched in 'blackwork' embroidery technique. Erudite and insightful commentary accompanying each piece adds a spiritual dimension for appreciating the designs and for understanding the associations of sacred text and art. In addition, Rachel shares forty embroidery motifs for fellow needle artists to incorporate in their own projects, along with ten new embroidery alphabets for Hebrew and English lettering. A chapter explaining the mathematical considerations in embroidery design provides clear, accessible explanations of how geometric and algebraic factors underlie the shape of the embroidery patterns.

About the Author Some twenty years ago, Rachel Braun began to explore ways that Jewish texts could be embroidered literally and figuratively in original needlecraft designs. During a sabbatical year from her career as a high school mathematics and statistics teacher, she collected her work and thoughts in this volume. Her many talents artistic, spiritual, and mathematical come together in this work. Rachels embroidery canvases have hung in many venues, including libraries and places of worship. In 2014, her embroidery Bamidbar: In the Wilderness was selected for display in the juried exhibit accompanying the American Mathematical Societys special session on mathematics and fiber arts. Rachel lives in the Washington, DC area with her husband, Steven. Together, they raised four children who have become passionate and adventurous young adults. In addition to her mathematical undertakings, Rachel is a synagogue service leader, Torah chanter, and Jewish educator. Fun fact: she holds a Guinness Book of World Records certificate for the largest graph paper collection in the world, with more than 750 distinct sheets. Visit www.rachelbraun.net to learn more about her embroidery designs and to read her blogposts about Torah, graphs, and graph paper.