



# Letter From Lori



Gary Sexton Photography

Dear Friends,

Thanks to generous support from our donors and Members, The Contemporary Jewish Museum (The CJM) advanced The Museum's mission to make the diversity of the Jewish experience relevant to a twenty-first century audience in Fiscal Year 2019. The CJM provides Jewish visitors with opportunities to explore and strengthen their Jewish identity while illuminating Jewish culture, history, art, and ideas for all audiences.

The CJM is sincerely grateful for your sustained generosity and commitment. Your vital support furthers the vision we share to create vibrant and inclusive Jewish experiences that are meaningful, compelling, and responsive to contemporary life. Together, may we go from strength to strength in our endeavor to advance Jewish values and culture for the benefit of all people.

Warmly,  
Lori Starr  
Executive Director

# CJM Audiences



Photo by Beth LaBerge

**In Fiscal Year 2019, The CJM accomplished its mission to make the diversity of Jewish experience relevant to twenty-first century audiences through its exhibitions, education programs, and the strategic distribution of digital media.**



Photo by Beth LaBerge

## Key Fiscal Year 2019 metrics include:

- ▶ 500,000 visitors to thecjm.org
- ▶ 62,000 on-site visitors (50% are Jewish)
- ▶ 8,000+ Pre-K through university students, teachers, and family members attended education programs
- ▶ Education programs served 111 schools, including 34 Jewish day schools and synagogue schools
- ▶ 586 teens aged 13–18 engaged in teen programs
- ▶ 1,000+ interactive tours of The CJM's exhibitions and building were conducted by docents and Museum Educators
- ▶ 7,500 visitors attended free days at The CJM including the annual Community Free Day on December 25, four Family ArtBash Sundays, Culture for Community Day on March 21, and monthly Free First Tuesdays

# Exhibitions



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The CJM presented seven exhibitions spanning Fiscal Year 2019. These exhibitions had profound, positive impact on The CJM's strategic objectives to elevate its profile regionally and nationally, bolster critical and popular acclaim in the sphere of Jewish cultural institutions and the museum world, and increase participation among diverse and engaged audiences.

**The exhibitions served to amplify The CJM's core values by showcasing the richness of the Jewish experience from a variety of perspectives and actively engaging visitors through innovative public programs, which stimulated the expression of diverse viewpoints.**

## **Contraption: Rediscovering California Jewish Artists**

*February 22–July 29, 2018*

This original CJM exhibition featured work by sixteen California-based artists of Jewish descent. The artists—both historical and contemporary—were represented by work referring to the machine either literally or metaphorically. Among works by living artists were large-scale mechanical installations by Bernie Lubell and Sheri Simons, as well as ceramics, drawings, sculpture, and paintings by Ned Kahn, Bella Feldman, Howard Fried, and Annabeth Rosen. Other living artists represented in the exhibition included Judith Belzer, Carol Bernard, and Miriam Dym. Historical artists represented in the exhibition included Edward Biberman, Boris Deutsch, Rube Goldberg, John Gutman, Bruce Handelsman, Richard Kamler, and Irving Norman. A comprehensive catalog of the exhibition was published by Hirmer Verlag, a prominent fine arts press.

## **The Art of Rube Goldberg**

*March 15–July 8, 2018*

This exhibition explored the career of Rube Goldberg (1883–1970), one of the most celebrated and influential cartoonists of all time. Marking the first comprehensive retrospective exhibition of Goldberg's work since 1970, the presentation brought together never-before-seen original

drawings and preparatory sketches alongside rare photographs, films, letters, and memorabilia from the Goldberg family archives.

## **Lew the Jew and His Circle: Origins of American Tattoo**

*July 26, 2018–June 9, 2019*

"Lew the Jew" Alberts (1880–1954) was one of the most influential artists tattooing in NYC's Bowery at the beginning of the twentieth century. This exhibition included previously unpublished and rare original tattoo artwork, photos, and correspondence between Lew and San Francisco tattoo artists "Brooklyn Joe" Lieber and C. J. "Pop" Eddy.



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**In That Case: *Havruta* in Contemporary Art—Oxossi Ayofemi and Risa Wechsler**

*July 26, 2018–January 14, 2020*

Oakland-based visual artist Oxossi Ayofemi partnered with renowned Stanford University physicist Risa Wechsler to present *Black Matter*, an exhibition exploring the nature of the elusive dark matter that fills the universe, imagery of presence and absence, and latent abundance in African American culture.

**Veiled Meanings: Fashioning Jewish Dress, from the Collection of The Israel Museum, Jerusalem**

*August 30, 2018–January 6, 2019*

The first comprehensive exhibition drawn from The Israel Museum's world-renowned collection of Jewish wardrobe to be presented in the United States featured more than 100 articles of clothing spanning the eighteenth to twentieth centuries from over twenty countries across four continents. The exhibition involved close collaboration between The CJM and the curatorial team at The Israel Museum, including exhibition curator Efrat Assaf-Shapira, who visited The CJM for twelve days to assist with the installation, meet with staff, lead tours, and present public programs.



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## Show Me as I Want to Be Seen

February 7–July 7, 2019

Taking the work of French Jewish artist and writer Claude Cahun (1894–1954) and her lifelong lover and collaborator Marcel Moore (1892–1972) as its starting point, this exhibition examined the empowered representation of fluid and complex gender, ethnic, and racial identity. Cahun (born Lucy Schwob) and Moore (born Suzanne Malherbe) were pioneers in their bold representations of an unfixed self. This exhibition positioned their work in dialogue with ten contemporary artists—Nicole Eisenman, Rhonda Holberton, Hiwa K, Young Joon Kwak, Zanele Muholi, Toyin Ojih Odutola, Gabby Rosenberg, Tschabalala Self, Davina Semo, and Isabel Yellin.

## Daria Martin: Tonight the World

June 27, 2019–February 23, 2020

Daria Martin's new installation, co-commissioned with Barbican, London, combines computer gaming technology and film to explore the subconscious memories of her grandmother, artist Susi Stiasni. As a teenager, Stiasni and her family fled then Czechoslovakia from the imminent Nazi occupation, eventually settling in Marin County, where Martin was born and raised. An immersive and atmospheric environment, *Tonight the World* stages a series of intimate encounters with an extensive archive of Stiasni's dream diaries. The multimedia exhibition includes *Refuge*, a computer game based on a 3-D rendering of the Villa Stiasni, and culminates in an original film bringing Stiasni's dreams to life shot onsite at the present-day Villa Stiasni.



# Program and Education Highlights



Photo by Beth LaBerge

**During 2018–2019, The CJM presented a full array of programming for young adults, teens, families, and K–12 students and teachers. These experiences offered new perspectives on identity and promoted community connections anchored in Jewish culture and values.**

## Textile Lab

In connection with the exhibition *Veiled Meanings: Fashioning Jewish Dress from the Collection of The Israel Museum, Jerusalem*, The CJM created a unique, interactive Textile Lab in the Stephen and Maribelle Leavitt Yud Gallery adjacent to the exhibition. The Textile Lab comprised a hands-on, educational installation that enabled visitors to explore weaving on a giant loom, draping on dress forms, and embroidering patterns inspired by the exhibition. A video nook featured interviews with Bay Area community members with families from regions represented in the exhibition. Additional educational presentations also made use of the Textile Lab, including a series of hands-on workshops presented in partnership with the San Francisco School of Needlework and Design. Many of the 2,000+ K-12 students and teachers who toured the exhibition also participated in artist-led workshops in the Textile Lab.

## Access Programs

The CJM offers a wide array of access programs offered free of charge to fulfill a community need for high-quality, individualized opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities. In Fiscal Year 2019, The CJM continued this longstanding dedication to accessibility, expanding an already extensive range of programming for visitors with intellectual, physical, or social barriers to participation. These included verbal description tours of exhibitions for visitors with impaired vision, American Sign Language tours for the hearing impaired, and multisensory tours for individuals with early-stage Alzheimer's and their care partners.



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The annual *Superfest: International Disability Film Festival*, presented on October 21, 2018 in partnership with the Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University and Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, engaged a sold-out audience of 220 in The CJM's Richard and Rhoda Goldman Hall.

Programs designed to serve seniors in the Bay Area were offered monthly on Free First Tuesdays. In addition to welcoming seniors to exhibition tours, The CJM presented art-making workshops and *Creative Aging: Dance for Life* programs featuring guided movement exercises with live music.

The CJM continued to partner with Bay Area social service agencies to provide access to The Museum for under-served, low-income individuals. Recent partners include: Alzheimer's Association, Northern California and Nevada Chapter; Elder Care Alliance; Jewish LearningWorks INCLUDE; Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University; LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired; San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services; San Francisco Department of Veteran's Affairs; San Francisco Mayor's Office on Disability; The Stonewall Project, San Francisco AIDS Foundation; Support for Families of Children with Disabilities.

## Young Adult Programs

Designed to appeal to young adults, three Night at the Jewseum programs were presented in 2018–2019, each tailored to a specific theme related to Jewish holidays and Museum exhibitions; Adornment (September 13, 2018); Shimmer (December 6, 2018); and Purim Cabaret (March 21, 2019). Night at the Jewseum provided occasions for attendees to socialize and learn in the context of re-imagined, informal Jewish educational experiences. On Sunday, June 9, a free, all-day Zine Fest, Show Me Your Stories, was presented, featuring an array of hands-on activities promoting creative and inclusive self-expression. In addition, the following programs with special appeal to young adult audiences were presented: Yarn: Storytelling with Heather Gold and Friends, a comedy storytelling performance (July 12, 2018); Porchlight: Tattoo Tales, storytelling about tattoos presented in conjunction with The CJM exhibition *Lew the Jew and His Circle: Origins of American Tattoo* (August 16, 2018); Sephardic Legacy presented by the Ladino Project—A Night of Music and Dance (October 4, 2018). The Simpsons and Other Jewish Families—Mike Reiss (October 18, 2018); and Shalom Bollywood: The Untold Story of Indian Cinema (January 3, 2019).

## Teen Programs

The centerpiece of The CJM teen programs is the Teen Art Connect (TAC) Internship, a yearlong, paid internship at The CJM that provides hands-on work experience, apprenticeships, professional development workshops, and skill-building arts activities. TAC interns planned and produced a series of events for their peers engaging 586 teen participants over the course of the year. Activities included Teen-led Architecture Tours, artist workshops, panel discussions, art-making activities, and the teen-curated exhibition *What We Hold: A Youth Audio Project* described below. Each of these programs provided opportunities for teens to explore creative expressions of Jewish identity. Teens also toured The CJM's exhibition *Veiled Meanings: Fashioning Jewish Dress, from the Collection of The Israel Museum, Jerusalem* acquiring knowledge of a spectrum of cultures in the Jewish diaspora, and exploring connections with their own personal origins and family histories.

*What We Hold: A Youth Audio Project* is the sixth installment in The CJM's series highlighting youth voices. For this project, teens interviewed a family member or loved one to investigate and reflect on what aspects of their identities are influenced by cultural inheritance and family life. Over the course of three months, teens met with a theater artist, a podcast developer, and youth educators to learn the crafts of storytelling, interviewing, storyboarding, and podcast editing. This engagement resulted in the creation of more than fifty new recordings that offer a compelling window into identity and intergenerational values. The audio documentaries are available to the public in a newly-designed, digital listening room at The Museum as well as an interactive website that can be searched by theme, [whatwehold-thecjm.org](http://whatwehold-thecjm.org).



Photo by Beth LaBerge

## Family Programs

Family ArtBash Sundays are The CJM's special program for preschool-aged children and their families. Four specially-designed days of interactive workshops and performances were presented free-of-charge on September 23 and December 9, 2018, and January 13 and March 17, 2019. The Zim Zoom Family Room is a dedicated space for intergenerational arts activities especially designed for The CJM's youngest visitors and is open to families during all Museum hours. Drop-in Art Studios offered hands-on art making activities related to exhibitions and seasonal Jewish themes two Sundays each month and on select holidays. Art Pushcart offered similar opportunities in the galleries on alternate Sundays.



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## K-12 School and Teacher Programs

The CJM is among the Bay Area's most important arts education resources for K-12 students and teachers during school hours. Interactive tours of exhibitions and the architecture of The CJM building led by professional educators are the centerpiece of the programs. Online curriculum resource materials enhance teachers' ability to incorporate tour content in the classroom. Art-making workshops deepen students' learning and foster creativity. All tours and accompanying art-making workshops are free of charge to all schools. The following K-12 programs were offered during Fiscal Year 2019:

**Past to Present: A San Francisco Neighborhood from the Gold Rush to Today** provides an integrated set of arts experiences focused on The CJM's historic building. Students learn about San Francisco history embedded in the building and neighborhood, as well as in documents from the Gold Rush and turn-of-the-century San Francisco. Students explore historical and modern design concepts through art-making activities.

**Resilience, Holocaust, and the Architecture of Life** features Holocaust survivors presenting first-hand accounts of their lives. Tours and art making connect these presentations with symbolism embedded in the architecture of The CJM's building, designed by Polish-American architect Daniel Libeskind, himself a child of Holocaust survivors.

**Clothing, Culture, Heritage, and Migration** focused on three themes related to *Veiled Meanings: Fashioning Jewish Dress, from the Collection of The Israel Museum, Jerusalem*—stories and traditions of diverse cultures, geography and maps, and clothing and lifestyle, then and now. Programs taught against stereotypes and brought to light the idea that, like many cultures, Jewish people live all over the world, and represent global diversity. In this context, the Textile Lab functioned as a maker space where students and teachers were guided in hands-on creative exploration of fabrics, clothing design, weaving, draping, and embroidery.

**Jews and Tattoos** featured exhibition tours and art making workshops related to the exhibition *Lew the Jew and His Circle: Origins of American Tattoo*. The exhibition featured previously unpublished original tattoo art by "Lew the Jew" Alberts, a pioneering artist in the emerging tattoo industry of the early twentieth century.

**Black Matter—Oxossi Ayofemi and Risa Wechsler** explores images by artist Oxossi Ayofemi that portray Black Power, deserts, cities, waterfalls, and break dancing as sources and models of continuous energy. Images developed by Stanford University cosmologist and physicist Dr. Risa Wechsler, who partnered with Ayofemi on the exhibition, provide a contrasting perspective. Teens have opportunities to explore these themes and respond with original art.

**Portraiture, Identity, and Representation** explored personal and cultural identity through the exhibition *Show Me as I Want to be Seen*. Students viewed and responded to photographs by Jewish surrealist artist Claude Cahun and portraiture by contemporary artists in the exhibition. They were guided in art-making activities to portray their own personal and cultural identities.

Cover: Olivia Smartt Photography

# CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MUSEUM

THE CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MUSEUM  
736 Mission Street, San Francisco, California 94103  
415.655.7800  
[thecjm.org](http://thecjm.org)  
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