

photo by Frank Siteman

Statement

Ruth Mordecai's paintings feature black and white paint or collage to define sculptural forms and use a variety of lines to define the pictorial space. The most recent *Homage to Matisse* series shows this clear sculptural reference. Often, a dash or two of color brightens an otherwise monochromatic color palette. A series may investigate abstractions from dance, landscape or visual symbols that reference Biblical stories and Hebrew letters. Usually her process translates into the stacking of various images that together have become the iconography of the work. The titles: *Container, Stacks, Between Painting and Sculpture, Jacob's Ladder/Jacob's Dream* (from Genesis) are examples of the use of this visual vocabulary. All works are on gessoed 100% rag paper with acrylic, oil paint and collage.

Ruth Mordecai is a sculptor turned painter. *Sculpture (1980-1996): A video*, and *Conversation with the Artist*, a talk at Trident Gallery, Gloucester, MA can be accessed under Links to Videos on the index. For 25 years her studio was in Boston's Fort Point District. It now overlooks Smith Cove on Rocky Neck in Gloucester, MA. She attended Bennington College and has a BFA and MFA from Boston University School for the Arts and taught at the Boston University School for the Arts, the DeCordova Museum School and the Harvard Ceramics Studio. Her work has been shown primarily in Washington DC, New York and Boston, MA (see Resume for complete listing). She has been represented by Trident Gallery since 2014. Her artwork is in major public and private collections including: Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Israel Museum, Cape Ann Museum, Rose Art Museum, and Wiggin Prints and Drawings Collection of the Boston Public Library (owns 35 works 1975 - 2013). Her work is included in *Fixing the World, Jewish American Painters of the Twentieth Century*, by Dr. Ori Soltes, Brandeis University Press, 2002