

Bagel Brunch at the Union League

Oil on linen, 12 x 16"

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Chutzpah, Schmaltz, Whimsy and Realism:

Deborah Schafer's paintings were first exhibited at The Temple Judea Museum in 2005 as part of an exhibition of Boris Schatz, the founder of The Bezalel School, Israel's first art school. That exhibition launched Schaefer, a descendant of Schatz, on an artistic journey of exploration. In her own words, *"Though I grew up aware of my "heritage", an ancestral family of important artists whose gravity and giant shadow loomed over my little kepple (head), I was only somewhat acquainted with my contemporary Israeli uncles and cousins, many of whom were also "Real Artists." They lived on the other side of the planet and it is a wonder that isolated from the direct encouragement of such an illustrious family I persisted in my artistic pursuits solo in this hemisphere.*

In 2005, The Temple Judea Museum held an exhibition featuring Professor Boris Schatz and his family. My work was included. The profound effect this experience had upon me came as quite a surprise. For the first time, I saw my canvases and drawings on display among artworks not only by Schatz, my famous great-grand uncle, but, in addition, on one wall suspended was my grandmother's weaving, under glass was my grandfather's graphics, on an opposite wall was uncle Avraham's painting. The cases were filled with cousin Zahara's sculpture, cousin Lilik's silk-screens and more. On display here, amongst family I wished I could have known better, was my own work. Discovering I had made it to a place where I belonged was a great affirmation. No longer did I feel like a lone artist satellite. I understood that blood is even thicker than oceans of water."

Visitors to the exhibition will see the work of a multi-faceted artist. On one hand Deborah Schafer is a very serious painter of formal portraits and the like. A graduate of the Tyler School of Art, she is currently a student of the famous portrait artist, Nelson Shanks. On the other hand she is an award-winning master of caricatures. She was invited to Japan, where caricature and comic art is most appreciated, as a guest artist. That invitation was extended by the **Hoshinoko Company**, a retail caricature business with stores in Tokyo and Yokohama, which invited Schafer to appear as a featured artist to do caricatures for the Japanese public. She has been awarded three "**Caricaturist of the Year**" awards, among others, from the **National Caricaturist Network**.

Deborah Schafer, the daughter of an American rabbi and an Israeli born, *Sabra* mother (who served in the Israeli army during the 1948 War of Independence), draws her inspirations from a broad range of experiences.

Her heritage; her multi-faceted talents, and her experiences have taken her artwork to a new place for this exhibition. Come and enjoy as the Temple Judea Museum continues to expand its story of Jewish Art!

The Temple Judea Museum
Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel
8339 Old York Road
SE corner Old York and Township Line Roads
Elkins Park, PA 19027
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
RITA ROSEN POLEY, Director/Curator
(215) 887-2027, TJMuseum@kenesethisrael.com
An accessible facility, groups welcome by appointment
Hours: M- Th: 9 – 5pm, Fr: 9 – 8pm

ATTACHED IMAGE: More available upon request
THE ARTIST IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS

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