

Judaic Studies Department

*The Department of Judaic Studies,
in cooperation with the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
and the Departments of Art and History,
presents*

The Annual Frances Haidt Lecture Series

Mirror or Projector: What Can Jewish Art Teach about Jewish History

SKIES OF PARCHMENT | SEAS OF INK
JEWISH ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS



Even the greatest Jewish Studies scholars of previous generations tended to regard art created by and for Jews as “mere corroborative detail” but not as a serious historical source in and of itself. Professor Marc Michael Epstein of Vassar College discusses a variety of approaches to Jewish visual culture -- from its use as an archaeological source, to its utility for assessing social relationships between Jews and non-Jews, to its employment as a unique and powerful tool for accessing medieval Jewish mentalities.

Marc Michael Epstein Professor on the Mattie M. Paschall & Norman Davis Chair in Religion and Visual Culture at Vassar College. He is a graduate of Oberlin College, received his Ph.D. from Yale University, and conducted much of his graduate research at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. His book *The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative, and Religious Imagination* (Yale University Press, 2011) was selected by the Long Times Literary Supplement as one of the best books of the year. He recently published *Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink: Jewish Manuscript Illumination* (Princeton University Press, 2015), a magisterial large-format survey of the genre with over 300 illustrations in brilliant digital color, and the winner of the National Jewish Book award.

**Tuesday, April 17, 2018
12:30 to 2 p.m.
Woody Tanger Auditorium
Brooklyn College Library**

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