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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