

SIONA BENJAMIN
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SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

“Blue Like Me: Recent Work by Siona Benjamin,” a traveling exhibition curated by Cheryl Kramer and organized by the Handwerker Gallery, Ithaca College, Ithaca NY will travel to The Hermitage Foundation Museum in Norfolk, VA. (Dec 14 -Jan 25 2007-08) – **Upcoming**

“ Blue like Me” at the Carol Tatkon Center at Cornell University, NY (1-31 Oct 2007).

“Blue like Me: Paintings by Siona Benjamin” at Handwerker Gallery, Ithaca College. (Feb 26 – Apr 1 2007) - *Catalog* .

“Ishq” at Cheryl Pelavin Fine Art, New York, NY (Oct 18 – Dec 2 2006)

“Fereshteh” New/Now features Siona Benjamin at The New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain CT (Apr 23 – May 1 2005)

“Fereshteh” at Cheryl Pelavin Fine Arts, New York (Sept 9th to Oct 16th, 2004).

"Exploring Symbolism through Culture: Contemporary Art by Siona Benjamin and the Mithila Folk paintings of India", Denver CO. Apr 15th - Jun 4th 2004. (cosponsored by The Mizel Museum of Judaica, Asian Art Co-ordinating council and The Museum of Outdoor Art in Denver CO) – *Exhibit Brochure*

“Spicy Girl” at Blackbridge Hall Gallery, The Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, GA (Aug 18 – Sept 19, 2003).

" Spicy Girl" at Akus Gallery, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT (Jan 23rd - Mar 9th 2003)

Two Person Exhibition "Finding Home" at Trinity College, Hartford, CT (Feb 3rd - Mar 5th 2003)

"Siona Benjamin: Multicultural Identities" at Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus OH (Jan 7th - Feb 8th 2002)

"Finding Home" at Mitchell Museum, Mount Vernon, Illinois, (23 Feb - 5 May 2002 - upcoming)

Two Person Exhibition "Spicy Girl" at Corridor Gallery, Fine Arts Center Galleries, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, (3 Oct - 5 Nov 2001)

"Finding Home" Series, at University Museum, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, (15 Aug - 31 Oct 2001)

"Finding Home" at Visual Arts Gallery, University of Illinois, Springfield, Illinois, (27 Feb - 30 Mar, 2001)

"Spicy Girl" at MacLennan Gallery of Asian Art, St Louis University, St Louis, Missouri, (13 Sept - 27 Oct, 2000)

Solo exhibition at "Lorimier Gallery", Southeast Missouri Arts Council, Cape Girardeau, (6-29 Nov, 1998)

Solo exhibition at "Tarble Arts Center", Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois, (10 Mar - 19 Apr, 1998)

Two person exhibition at "Bockrath Gallery", Cleveland (4 Apr. - 17 May, 1997)

Two person exhibition at "Walsh Gallery", Chicago (6 Dec., 1996 - 31 Jan., 1997)

Solo exhibition at the "Beacon Street Gallery", Chicago (15-27 Dec., 1994) Exhibition continued at their Geneva, Illinois location (17 Feb.-26 Mar. 1995).

Solo exhibition at "Maison des Dîmes", Gondreville/Nancy, France (15 May-26 Jun. 1994).

Solo exhibition at "The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art", New Harmony, Indiana (2 Feb.-3 Mar., 1992)

Solo exhibition at "Waltuch Art Gallery" Jewish Community Center on the Palisades, Tenefly, New Jersey (4-30 Nov. 1990)

Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition at the "University Museum", Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Illinois (14-20 July, 1989)

Solo exhibition of enamel paintings on copper at the "Dhoomimal Art Center", New Delhi, India (29 Nov.- 9 Dec. 1985).

Solo exhibition of enamel paintings on copper at the "Jehengir Art Gallery", Bombay, India (9-15 Oct. 1984)

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

"Passage to Jersey: Women Artists of the South Asian Diaspora in Our Midst" at Rutgers University, NJ - Brodsky Gallery (Jan 15 – July 31 2008) – **Upcoming**

"A Complex Weave: Transcultural Women Artists" at The Steadman Gallery, Rutgers University, Camden NJ –(Sept 2 –Oct 18 2008). - **Upcoming**

"Ornamental Instincts" at Wave Hill Bronx, NY. (Nov 23 – Feb 10 2008) - **Upcoming**

"Return Home" at the Paul Robeson Center for the Arts and organized by the Arts Council of Princeton, NJ. (Dec 2 2007 – Jan 2008) *Catalog* –**Upcoming.**

"Ceremonies and Celebrations" at Alva Gallery, CT (Nov 3rd – Dec 15th 2007) – **Upcoming.**

South Asian Women's Creative Collective (SAWCC) 10th Anniversary Visual Art Exhibition at Exit Art in New York "Sultana's Dream" (Aug 4th - Sept 1st 2007) – *Catalog*

“Home And Away: The Spaces We Inhabit” Bronfman Center Gallery, New York University, NY (March 26th - May 11th 2007).

"Erasing Borders: Contemporary South Asian Art from the Diaspora" at The Queens Museum, New York. Exhibit sponsored by The Indo American Arts Council in NYC. (Feb 4 - Mar 4 2007) *Catalog*. Exhibit traveling to The Guild Art USA in New York (April 5 - 19 2007)

“Out of the East: An exhibition of works influenced by Eastern Ideas and / or imagery” at The Arts Guild of Rahway, NJ (February 18 - March 16, 2007)

Prints by New Jersey Artists: 15 Years of the Brodsky Center (Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper) at The Print Center, Philadelphia, PA (Nov 30 2006 – Feb10 2007)

Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper Fellowship recipients traveling to Michaelis School of Art, Cape Town, South Africa and United States Embassy, Mozambique, Africa. Exhibit also travels to venues in Israel and the Middle East. (2006-07)

“Proximities of Distance” at The William Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut, CT. - *Brochure* (October 27 – Dec 2006)

“Intersections: Shifting Identity in Contemporary Art” at John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan WI. (Oct 15 – Dec 31 2006.

“Fire” at The gallery of Contemporary Art, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield CT (Sept 17 – Oct 26 2006)

“Please Touch” at GASP Gallery (Gallery Artists Studio Projects) Boston MA (May 19th – Jul 8 2006)

“In Diaspora: NJ Artists of Indo-Pakistani Heritage” The Montgomery Center for the Arts, Skillman NJ. (Mar 17 – Apr 30, 2006)

New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship Exhibition at The New Jersey State Museum, Trenton NJ (Jan 21 – Mar 18 2006) – *Catalog*.

“Water” The Gallery of Contemporary Art, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield CT (Jan 22 – Feb 23 2006) – Some of the artists in the exhibit include Lee Bontecou, Christo and Jeanne Claude, Alex Katz and Pat Steir.

“Being Good: Womens Moral Values in the New Millennium” Alva Gallery, New London CT (Nov 19 2005 – Jan 20 2006)

“Sweet Basil” Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, Miami FL (Dec 2005)

“New Jersey: Place of Mind” The New Jersey Arts Annual at The Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ (June 18 – Sept 11 2005) – *Catalog*.

“Women of the Book: Jewish Artists Jewish Themes” group show at Rutgers University, Camden NJ (Mar 28 – May 28 2005)

"Fatal Love: South Asian American Art Now" group show at the Queens Museum NY (Feb 27 - Jun 5 2005) - *Catalog*.

Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper (RCIPP) - Artist Fellowship Annual Print Exhibition at Mason Gross School of Fine Art, Rutgers University, (Jan 5 - Feb 4 2005)

“Celestial Boundries” at Montclair State University Art Galleries, Montclair, NJ (Transcultural New Jersey exhibition. Sept 13 - Oct 23 2004) – *Catalog*.

“Passport to Contemporary Indian Art” Curated by Sundaram Tagore and sponsored by The Indo-American Arts Council in New York at The Gallery, New York City (Sept 15 - Oct 11, 2004) – *Catalog*.

“Food, Clothing and Shelter” at The Interfaith Center of New York (Sept 14th - Nov 5th 2004).

"Crosscurrents in the Mainstream" at Rutgers University, Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick, NJ (Transcultural New Jersey exhibition. Apr 4th – July 31st 2004) - *Catalog*.

"Masala: Diversity and Democracy in South Asian Art" at The William Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut, Storrs CT (Jan 20th - Apr 9th-2004). Siona is co-curator for this exhibition and also has work in the show. – *Exhibit Brochure*

“Hearing Voices: Personal Narratives” Gallery at Bristol Myers Squibb, Princeton, NJ (Feb 5 – Apr 11 2004) – *Catalog*.

"Home/land: Artists, Immigration and Identity" at The Society for Contemporary Craft, Pittsburgh PA (Jul 11 - Nov 1 2003); "Home/land" exhibit travels to the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, TX 2004 - *Catalog*.

Group exhibition of South Asian Women's Creative Collective (SAWCC) at Bose Pacia Modern in Chelsea, New York (Aug 1 - 23 2003)

"Art Chicago 2003" at Navy Pier, The Eleventh Annual Exposition of International Galleries. Exhibitor: Walsh Gallery, Chicago, IL (May 9-12 2003).

"Asian Art Now 2003" at the Las Vegas Art Museum - sponsored by The Asian Cultural Exchange Association, Tokyo Japan (Apr 25 - June 22 2003) .- *Catalog*.

"If the shoe fits: Asian issues of femininity in contemporary art" at Bard College, NY (Feb 1st - 28th 2003) - *Catalog*.

"Hybrids" at Wave Hill, Bronx NY (Mar 3rd - May 11th 2003) - *Brochure*.

"Finding Home" at University of Southern California (Hillel), Los Angeles, CA (Aug 25th - Oct 25th 2002)

SAVAC - South Asian Visual Arts Collective juried exhibition, at The Living Arts Center, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada (Apr 25th to May 26th, 2002) - *Brochure*.

"If the shoe fits: Asian issues of femininity in contemporary art" at Lehman Gallery (CUNY), New York, (Feb-Mar 2002) - *Catalog*.

" In Search Of" at Walsh Gallery, Chicago, IL (Nov 30th 2001 - Jan 5th 2002)

"Why Asia" A public art project by Godzilla, Art in General on Canal, New York, NY, (9 Oct 2001 - 28 Feb 2002) – *CD of exhibit available*.

"Divine" at the School of Fine Arts Gallery, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, (4 Sept - 6 Oct 2001)

"Encountering the Second Commandment" at the American Jewish Museum (JCC), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, (juried touring exhibition- 2001-2002). - *Catalog*.

"HOME? Crosscurrents in South Asian/American Art" at The Brush Art Gallery (co-organized by the Univ. of Massachusetts), Lowell, Massachusetts, (18 Feb - 15 Apr, 2001). - *Catalog*.

"Celebrating the Sephardic Woman" at American Sephardi Federation, New York, (14 Nov 2000)

"East meets West" sponsored by Asian Art Society and The St Louis Artists' Guild, St Louis, Missouri, (19 Mar - 22 Apr, 2000)

Group show of new faculty at SIU-C at University of Evansville, Indiana and at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, (28 Oct - 11 Dec, 1999)

Group exhibition at Institute of Fine Arts , Jewish Community Center , Fairfax , Virginia,(17 Oct- 9 Dec, 1998)

Group exhibition at "Gallery at 678", New York, (14 Mar - 21 Mar, 1998)

Group exhibition at "Gallery at 678", New York, (1 Aug. - 25 Sep., 1997)

"Around the Coyote 7th Annual Arts Exposition", Chicago (5-8 Sep., 1996)

Group exhibition at "Walsh Gallery", Chicago (12 Apr. - 18 May, 1996)

Group invitational exhibition at "Wood Street Gallery", Chicago (6 Apr. - 4 May, 1996).

Group exhibition at "Walsh Gallery", Chicago (10 Nov. - 8 Dec., 1995).

Juried exhibition at the Fifth International Conference on Enamels sponsored by the Enamelist Society at the *Charles H. Taylor Art Center* in Hampton, Virginia, (14 Jul. - 27 Aug., 1995). The exhibition then traveled to the *Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery* in Waterloo, Ontario (17 Sept. - 19 Nov., 1995). - *Catalog*.

Group exhibition at "Gallery at Work: East + West", Chicago (May, 1995).

Group Exhibition at "Galerie Ovadia", Nancy, France (Mar. 1994).

Group exhibition *Stage Art* at the "I-Space", Chicago (July, 1994).

Group exhibition at "Palais Thurm und Taxis", Bregenz, Austria (June, 1991). - *Catalog*.

National Invitational Group Enamel Exhibition at "Liberty Gallery", Louisville, Kentucky (1 Oct.- 29 Nov 1990)

Colors of India sponsored by the Red Cross Blue Chip Committee in Melbourne, Australia (Jan.- Mar. 1986)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Finding Home: The Midrashic Art of Siona Benjamin. By Prof Ori Z. Soltes for *Nashim: A Journal*

of Jewish Women's studies and Gender Issues. Published by Brandeis University 2007

Siona is of sixteen female artists featured in the *Hadassah-Brandeis Institute's 2007-08 weekly planner*. The desk-top planner will highlight female Jewish activists from around the world. Featured artists: Helene Aylon, Siona Benjamin, Judy Chicago, Audrey Flack, Marti Friedlander, Ayana Friedman, Tamar Hirschil, Tatana Kellner, Mierle Ukeles, Ariane Cohen, Judith Margolis, Beverly Naidus, Louise Navelson, Rauuel Partnoy, Hope Sandrow, Miriam Schapiro. HBI's website: (www.brandeis.edu/hbi).

India in New York Newspaper. "Arts of the Diaspora" by P. Rajendran. Cover story. Feb 9th 2007.

India Abroad Newspaper (International weekly newspaper) "Erasing Borders with Lines" by P Rajendran. M6 Feb 23rd 2007.

Little India Magazine (North American circulation) "Siona's Three Cultures Colliding" by Lavina Melwani. Pg 60. March 2007.

"The Decorative Aesthetic as a Critical Painting Practice: The Art of Siona Benjamin," in Representation and Decoration in a Postmodern Age by Prof Lorraine Morales Cox - Union College NY, Alfred Hornung, Rüdiger Kunow, eds., *Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2007. Part of monograph series published by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien (German Association of American Studies).*

Jewish Art in America – An Introduction by Matthew Baigell. 2006 Work included in book (Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc).

Forward "The Challenge of Defining Jewish Art" by Menachem Wecker (Aug 18, 2006, New York)

DNA Newspaper (Mumbai, India) "Dancers become the characters in my paintings" by Uttara Choudary. (pg 10, May 27 2006)

Chicago Tribune: - "Arts serve as peace guide" by Lucia Mauro.(Wednesday, March 29 2006. Section 5 – Tempo, page 4).

Art New England: - "In the Studio: Siona Benjamin" by L.P. Streitfeld.(Pg 9 June/July 2005.)

The Advocate and Greenwich Times: - "Transcultural visionary: Siona Benjamin is New/Now" (Sunday May 29th, 2005. Art section)

The New York Times: - (May 8 2005, NJ Arts and Entertainment section: Capturing the Torah of Their Lives by Fred Adelson. Pg13)

Asian Art News :- News Brief (March/April 2005. pg 32)

The Hartford Courant: - "Siona's Stories" by L.P. Streitfeld. Saturday, April 30 2005. Section D)

The Montclair Times: Arts section "Montclair Artists Exhibit at Queens Museum" (March 17 2005)

Art and Antiques magazine: Our picks: Top Emerging Artists: "Exuberant Expressions" article by Edward Gomez. (February 2005. www.ArtandAntiques.net)

NJN - TV Program: Friday, January 28 2005 at 8:30 and 11:30 pm. Siona's work is included in the program titled: "The New American Art". Series producer, State of the Arts: Susan Wallner

Moment Magazine: A conversation on Jewish culture, politics and religion. - (Washington DC. December 2004 issue)

Painting on book cover: "**Sephardic Identity: Essays on a Vanishing Jewish Culture**" author: Professor George K. Zucker. (Pub: www.mcfarlandpub.com - Feb 2005)

Prose studies –(Routledge pub) Vol 27 Issue Dec 2005, pages 248 – 263. Article title: “Painted Selves: Autography in the Art of South Asian American Women” by Professor Gita Rajan – Hamilton College.

Journal cover and article in “**Femspec**” – An interdisciplinary feminist journal. Article title: “Vision and Visibility: Contemporary Jewish Women Artists Visualize the Invisible” by Professor Gloria Orenstein, University of S. California. (Vol 4 Issue 2 2004. Published by Lexington Books, US and UK)

Journal cover for “**Catamaran: South Asian American Writing**” – (Asian American Studies Institute, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT – Fall 2004)

Forward (October 1, 2004. New York)

India Abroad (India in New York) – (September 10, 2004, pg 3)

The Montclair Times – (Sept 9, 2004, Art section)

The New Jersey Jewish News – Metrowest – (Sept 2 2004)

The Jewish Press, New York – (July 28 2004, by Menachem Wecker. Art section)

Zeek: A Jewish Journal of Thought and Culture – (Spring/Summer 2004)

- **The New York Times** – (Apr 18 2004, Arts and Entertainment. by Benjamin Genocchio. NJ pg11)

The New York Times – (April 9, 2004, Art in Review. by Holland Cotter)

The Montclair Times – (Feb. 26 2004, Community section)

Book cover for "**India Abroad: Diasporic Cultures of Postwar America and England**" – (by Professor Sandhya Shukla, Columbia University, New York. Published by Princeton University Press - 2003.)

The Jewish Week, New York– (August . 1 2003)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – (Oct. 2 2003, section B)

Pittsburgh Tribune (July. 27 2003, Entertainment section)

Pittsburgh City Paper – (July. 23-30 2003, pg 31 Art Feature)

The New York Times - (April. 26, 2002, Art in Review. by Holland Cotter)

The New York Times - (Westchester section April. 14, 2002)

Channel 11 PBS - TV (Chicago) "ArtBeat" Program (Dec 23rd and 30th 2001)

Bridges, A Journal for Jewish Feminists, (Summer 2001 - Vol 9 no 1)

Art in America, (July 2001)

Art New England, (June/July 2001)

The Boston Globe, (Mar. 29 2001)

The Worcester Phoenix, Mass (Mar. 22 - 28 2001)

India New England (Mar. 2001)

St Louis Post Dispatch (Dec. 31 2000)

India Abroad - Arts Section (Dec. 8. 2000)

Perspectives - Research and Creative Activities at Southern Illinois University - Fall 2000

The Little Magazine (article by Prof. Gloria Orenstein USC- CA. Sept-Oct 2000)

St Louis Post-Dispatch (Oct. 15 2000)

St Louis Post-Dispatch ("Best Bet", Apr. 10 2000)

Hadassah Magazine (Nov. 1999)

WSIU-TV (PBS) programs Backroads: Artist in Residence (1999) and Finding Home: The Asian Indians of Carbondale (1999).

Marquis Who's Who in the Midwest (26th edition), _____ in America (54th edition)

Heartland -Illinois Arts Council (Fall 1998)

Glass on Metal (Apr. 1998, June 1997, Aug. 1996)

Southern Illinoisan (Oct. 9 1999, Apr. 2 1999, Feb. 16 1998, Dec. 12 1997, Dec. 27 1996)

Teaching Tolerance (Fall 1997)

India Chronicle (Chicago) (Dec. 20 1996)

Chicago Tribune ("Best Bet", Dec. 13 1996)

VISITING ARTIST LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS.

"Rang de Nila" (Color me Blue) visual art/dance collaboration at Mason Gross School of Fine Arts auditorium, Rutgers University- (Jan 31st 2008). – **Upcoming**

Artist presentation and dance collaboration at the Arts Council of Princeton-Contemporary Arts

Center, Princeton, NJ - (Feb 2008) – **Upcoming**

Artist presentation and dance collaboration at The Hermitage Foundation museum, Norfolk VA (Dec 2007) – **Upcoming**

Artist presentation at the Carol Tatkon Center at Cornell University, NY (Oct 23rd 2007).

Artist presentation and painting workshop at Cornell University, NY. (June 25 and 26th 2007).

Artist presentation at The Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, Brooklyn Museum, NY. Lecture series: "Bridging The Gap". April 7th 2007.

Artist presentation with Prof Judith Brodsky (Rutgers University, NJ) for the Feminist Art Exhibit at the Morris Museum, NJ (May 22nd 2007)

Panelist for: College Art Association (CAA) 95th Annual conference, New York. Panel title: "Blue" Chair: Prof Steve Shipp, Emerson College, MA. ((Fed 14-17, 2007)

Artist presentation for "Gateway to India" a celebration of India by ABC Carpet and Home Company in New York. Artist panel with Caron Smith from The Rubin Museum of Art, New York. (March 13 2007

On the Lip(s) of Miriam's Well: Jews|Women|Cultures. 18-20 March 2007 Vanderbilt University, TN. An international conference that undertakes a global examination of Jewish women's cultural practices. March 18th: An Evening of Musical and Visual Midrash of Biblical Women (in Sarratt Cinema @ 7:30) Collaboration with musicians Galeet Dardashti and Lila Sklar of Divahn as well as visual artist Siona Benjamin—for a debut performance featuring original works celebrating Women of the Bible. Siona's conference presentation: "what's a nice South Asian Jewish "girl" artist doing in a place like Jersey?"

Artist talk at the 92nd Street Y in New York – Feb 2 2007

Artist presentation at: South Asian Conference at Rutgers University. Conference title: Being and Becoming: Perspectives on Global South Asia. (November 11-12 2006)

Panelist for: American Studies Association, Annual Meeting in Oakland CA. Panel title: "Neither Here nor There: Themes and Debates in Contemporary Transnational American Art" Co-organized by Prof Lorraine Morales Cox and Prof Jerry Philogene, Union College, NY. (Oct 12-15, 2006)

"Rang de Nila" (Color Me Blue) performance at The Queens Museum, NY in conjunction with Asian Contemporary Arts Week in New York. (May 27 2006)

Artist Panel: "The Creative Active Female Principle: Women from South Asia in the Arts" at John Hopkins University, Washington DC, Panel participants: Siona Benjamin, Mansoor Hassan, Navina Jafa, Smita Tewari Jassal, Anu Ghosh-Mazumdar, Manjula Kumar and Nuzhat Sultan. Organizer: Kenneth X. Robbins and the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC. Friday April 14 2006.

Artist presentation and panel discussion at Columbia University, Art Department, New York. Class titled "Multiple Modernities" Taught by Professors Vidya Dehajia and Susan Vogel. Participating artists: Wangechi Mutu, Siona Benjamin and Alan Michelson. (March 22nd 2006)

Artist lecture and mural workshop at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Chicago IL. March 13th and 14th 2006.

“Rang de Nila” (Color Me Blue) Performance on Saturday, March 11 2006, 8:00 9:30 p.m. Rang de Nila is a collaboration with South Asian dancers Pranita Jain and Ishrat Hoque and artist/painter Siona Benjamin. Venue: Columbia College Chicago, Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash (8th Floor)

Rang de Nila is sponsored by Genesis at the Crossroads and the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago IL.

Artist lecture in Baltimore, Maryland – Hosted by Beth El Congregation. 25 synagogues and Jewish institutions will participate in the 2006 theme “Jewish communities around the world”. March 5th 2006.

Keynote speaker for The Society for International Education Training and Research (SIETAR USA) in Jersey City, NJ on Nov 9-12 2005. The 2005 conference theme is Blending Cultures, Building Strengths.

Panelist for Asian and Pacific Islander Women: Indigenous and Diasporic at Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven CT. Panel chair: Margo Machida Panel: Plenary Session: “Asian American Women Artists” Oct 28-29 2005

In conjunction with “The New Jersey Arts Annual: Place of Mind” group exhibition at Montclair Art Museum, NJ; Siona will present her work while collaborating with two South Asian dancers: Pranita Jain and Ishrat Hoque. Event title: “Rang De Nila” (Color Me Blue) Sept 9 2005 at 8pm.

Artist lecture at The New Britain Museum of American Art, CT. June 1 2005.

In conjunction with - Women of the Book: Jewish Artists Jewish Themes" group show at Rutgers University, Camden NJ 2005 - Martin Rosenberg, professor of fine arts at Rutgers University-Camden will moderate a panel discussion “Transforming Tradition: Women, Art, and Judaism in the Contemporary World”. Panelists: curator Judith Hoffberg, Rabbi Geri Newburge, Judith Brodsky, Department of Visual Arts - Rutgers University and Siona Benjamin, Artist. April 14 2005

Artist lecture at Princeton University, Princeton NJ. Feb 2005

Artist talk and workshop at St Lawrence University, Canton NY. Feb 2005

Artist talk and painting workshop at Queens Museum, NY, March 2005.

Artist lecture in Denver, CO. sponsored by Hadassah and The Mizel Museum of Judaica. April 2005.

Panelist for “Women and Holiness: Approaching the Sacred Feminine in Visual Culture” conference at Brigham Young University, UT. Jan 2005, chair: Prof Gloria Orenstein, University of Southern California. Session title: “Twenty-first Century Artistic Representations of the Feminine: Explorations in Multicultural, Ecological and Techno-Matriarchal Fusion Mythologies.

Artist talk at Bnai Keshet Synagogue. Montclair, NJ. Jan 2005.

Artist lecture at The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Mar 29 2004.

Panelist for AAARI South Asian Conference Program, at Baruch College, CUNY New York. March 19th 2004.

Artist talk at Columbia University, New York NY. "Religion and the Modern World" class, Department of Religion. Spring 2004.

Visiting artist at Union College, Dept of Visual Art, Schenectady, NY. Spring 2004.

Artist lecture and workshops, April 15 – 19 2004 at solo exhibit "Exploring Symbolism through Culture: Contemporary Art by Siona Benjamin and the Mithila Folk paintings of India", Denver CO. Apr 15th - Jun 4th 2004. (cosponsored by The Mizel Museum of Judaica, Asian Art Coordinating council and The Museum of Outdoor Art in Denver CO).

Keynote speaker at the Conference of the German Association for American studies titled "America and the Orient" at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany. May 2-7 2004.

Panelist for American Council for Southern Asian Art conference at the Peabody Essex Museum MA May 6-9 2004. Panel title: "Boundaries, Havens and Home: South Asian Artists in the United States" (Chair: Prof Mary Ann Milford – Mills College CA) Artist participants: Rina Banerjee, Siona Benjamin, Zarina Hashmi, Shahzia Sikander and Annu Palakunnathu Matthew) May 7th, 2004 2-4pm.

Panel for "'Masala: Diversity and Democracy in South Asian Art" exhibition at The William Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut, CT. Panel title: "Art of the South Asian Diaspora". March 1st 2004.(Chair: Professor Margo Machida. Art Dept, UConn CT)

Panelist for symposium at the Society for Contemporary Craft, Pittsburgh, PA. Panel titled: "Finding Home: Contemporary Art from Bicultural Perspectives" Nov 1. 2003.

Drew University, Madison NJ 2003 (sponsored by Humanities, Art, Asian studies, Jewish studies, Near Eastern Studies and Women's Studies)

Panelist for Midwest Art History Conference at the Andy Warhol Museum. Paper is titled: "Andy Warhol and his impact on Contemporary Asian Artists in the Diaspora" in Pittsburgh PA in Apr 2003. (Chair: Tom Sokolowski; curator at The Andy Warhol Museum)

Trinity College (sponsored by: Hillel, Jewish studies, Art Dept, Women's center), Hartford CT, 2003.

Public lectures for Hadassah and synagogues: Hadassah (Montclair NJ), (W. Bergen County NJ), (Fairlawn NJ), Beth Israel Synagogue, Hartford CT, 2003

Panelist for "The Contemporary Other: Immigrant Artists In Western Cities". Paper is titled: "Contemporary South Asian Artists In The Diaspora". The College Art Association conference in New York in Feb 2003. (Chair: Prof Sunanda Sanyal; The Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University)

In conjunction with the Hamzanama Mogul Painting exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY teaching/presenting a painting workshop and talk on Jan 12 2003.

Nassau Community College Visiting Artist Lecture, Long Island, NY 2002.

Montclair State University Art Forum Visiting Artist Lecture Series, Montclair, NJ 2002.

University of Southern California (Hillel and for The Center for Feminist Research) 2002.

"Contemporary South Asian Artists in the Diaspora". Presented at the Midwest Art History Society Conference, Milwaukee Art Museum, WI. 2002. (Chair: Prof Ying Wang; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

"Finding Home and the Dilemma of Belonging". Presented at the "Siting Secularism Conference", Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH. 2002.

Amherst College, Amherst, MA. 2002.

Trinity College, Hartford, CT. 2002.

Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, OH. 2002

South Asian Literary Association annual conference (MLA), Keynote speaker. New Orleans, LA. 2001

"Reconstructing Jewish Ethnicity"- Symposium at The American Jewish Museum, Pittsburgh, PA. 2001.

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. 2001

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI. 2001

Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT. 2001

South Asian Women's Creative Collective. New York. 2001

University of Illinois, Springfield, IL. 2001

Depauw University, Greencastle, IN. 2000

South East Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO. 2000

Waubonsee Community College, Sugar Grove, IL. 2000.

St Louis University, St Louis, MO. 2000

EXPERIENCE

Visiting Professor. Drew University, Madison NJ – (Spring 2007)

Painting Instructor. BIMA (Berkshire Institute of Music and Art) summer camp for Jewish youth at Williams College MA - (summer 2004)

Visiting Assistant Professor. Studio Arts Program, Trinity College, Hartford, CT- (Spring 2003)

Associate Curator. for exhibition at The William Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut, Storrs CT titled "Masala: Diversity and Democracy in South Asian Art" (Spring 2004)

Adjunct Instructor. School of Art and Design, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale IL. Teaching a new class on the topic of "Contemporary Asian Art in the Diaspora" for Art and the Honors program. (1996-2002)

Lecturer. Art and Design Department, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO. Teaching class on "Contemporary Asian Art in the Diaspora". (Spring 2001)

Professional Painter and Muralist. Creating and exhibiting works for sale and by commission. (1984 – present)

Artist in Residence. Directing and organizing workshops with students in painting, enameling and theater scenography. Working with a core group of selected students to prepare a permanent mural for the school/organization/community from 1996 to 2002. Funded by the Illinois Arts Council.

Theater. Studying and designing sets for theaters, scene painting and prop design from 1991 to 1994.

THEATER

Scene designer for *Alladin*, Magical Mystical Puppet Theater. Carbondale, Illinois (Spring 2003)

Scene designer for *The Skin of Our Teeth* at the Illinois Repertory Theater, Urbana, Illinois. Director: David Knight (Fall, 1993)

Scene designer for *Cabaret* and *Phantom* at the Little Theater on the Square, Sullivan, Illinois. Director: Seth Reines (Summer, 1993)

Scene painter at the Opera Theater of St. Louis (Summer, 1993)

Assistant scene designer for *Woman in Mind* at the Illinois Repertory Theater, Urbana, Illinois. Director: Wendy McClure (Spring, 1993)

Scene designer for *Rigoletto* at the Illinois Opera Theater, Urbana Illinois. Director: Bruce Donnell. (Fall, 1993)

Scene designer for St. Louis Black Repertory Company touring shows *City of Gold*, *The Adventures of Sinbad* and *The Pullman Porter Story*. Producer: Ron Himes (1992-1993)

Assistant scene designer and **properties master** for *Oklahoma* at the Illinois Opera Theater, Urbana, Illinois. Director: Nicholas DiVirgillio (Summer, 1992).

Assistant scene designer for *Merchant of Venice* at the Illinois Repertory Theater, Urbana, Illinois. Director: David Knight (Spring, 1992)

Associate scene designer for *Broadway Bound* at the Illinois Repertory Theater, Urbana, Illinois. Director: Jason Dunn (Fall, 1991)

Scene painter for the main stage productions at the McLeod Theater at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Illinois including *Baby*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Camelot*, *The Odd Couple*, *Pajama Game*, *Trojan Women*, *Philadelphia Story*, and *Hotel Paradiso*.

Scene designer and **technical director** for Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Laboratory Theater production entitled "An Evening of New Plays" including *Autumn Rain* by B. Holtz, *Man and Wife* by J. Reeves, *Not to Be* by D.K. Dillard, and *The Gathering* by K. Rathunde (1.91-5.91).

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS:

Hunterdon Museum, New Jersey
Morris Museum, New Jersey
New Jersey State Museum, New Jersey

Newark Public Library, New Jersey
Noyes Museum, New Jersey
Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey
Jersey City Museum, New Jersey
Newark Museum, New Jersey
Zimmerli Museum. Rutgers University, New Jersey
(Above list of museums has the Print edition made during Siona's fellowship at Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper (RCIPP/Brodsky Center) 2004-05)

The New Britain Museum of American Art, Connecticut

The William Benton Museum of Art. University of Connecticut, Storrs. CT

Eastern Connecticut State University, Connecticut

Several Private collections in the US and abroad.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

College Art Association (CAA).

South Asian Women's Creative Collective (SAWCC - NYC)

American Council for Southern Asian Art (ACSAA).

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Received New Jersey Print and Paper Fellowship from Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper (RCIPP), Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Jersey – 2004.

Artist Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, 2004.

Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Grant, New York, 2000-2001.

Women's Studies and Professional Advancement Juried Competition Award, Southern. Illinois University., 1998-1999 and 1999-2000.

Missouri Arts Council Arts-in-Education Residency Grant for 1999-2002.

The Illinois Alliance For Arts Education Service Recognition Award, 1998.

Illinois Arts Council Arts-in-Education Residency Grant for 1996-2003.

Illinois Arts Council Special Assistance Grant, Dec. 1994.

Honorable Mention Award (Set design for *The Skin of Our Teeth*), Regional American College Theater Festival (ACTF), Green Bay, WI, Jan. 1994.

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts (MFA). University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA, (8.91-12.93).
Emphasis in Theater Set Design.

Master of Fine Arts (MFA). Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL, USA (8.86 - 8.89).
Emphasis in Drawing, Painting, Metals and Art History.

Diploma in Metals (Enameling). J.J. School of Art, Bombay, India (6.81 - 5.83).

Apprenticeship in Photography. J.J. School of Art, Bombay, India (6.81 - 5.82).

Diploma in Fine Arts. J.J. School of Art, Bombay, India (6.76 - 5.81).