

Embodied Judaism Exhibits

The exhibit, SHE, explores the figure of Shekhinah —the feminine divine presence found in the Hebrew Bible and in the Jewish mystical texts known as the Kabbalah. Derived from the Hebrew word for "dwell or settle," Shekhinah guides and protects men and women everywhere and appears in various guises throughout her history: as power, wisdom, and compassion, among other things. She has influenced Jews from the ancient world through Second and Third Wave feminism and into the transgender and environmental concerns of the present day. This exhibit asks: who is She, how has She empowered us, and how does She appear to us today?

The exhibit is part of the Program in Jewish Studies' ongoing Embodied Judaism series and highlight collections in the Post-Holocaust American Judaism Archive. Our first two exhibits featured materials from the Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shlaomi, Leah Novick, and Arthur Waskow collections. In a slight departure from this model, this year's exhibit does not feature the work of any one donor's collection, but rather draws on a variety of materials from a number of collections to show the implications of the Shekhinah's recovery for the post-Holocaust American Jewish experience. These collections include those of Leah Novick, Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Rivkah Walton, and Chava Weissler.

Nan Goodman curated the exhibit. Andrew Violet designed it. Sam Boyd, Gregg Drinkwater, Tirzah Firestone, and John Sheridan provided valuable curatorial advice. Vanessa Frye, Meghan Perea, and Jane Thaler helped with logistics.

The 2017 exhibit is hosted by the Program in Jewish Studies and the University Libraries' Special Collections and Archives and made possible by support from Rose Community Foundation, a Research and Innovative Seed Grant, and CU's Departments of Philosophy, History, Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, Theatre and Dance, Religious Studies, English, and Women and Gender Studies.