

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Amy Guess

Humanities Discipline: Art History

Date: 10-30-15 Meeting

World Religion: Judaism

Teaching Module Title: Censorship and Women in Jewish Art

Teaching Module Goals:

*Be able to discuss the core religious beliefs of Judaism and how they relate to the history of Jewish art

*Focus on more “taboo” ideas of Jewish art, which are often censored:

-Reflection of feminist ideals and identity throughout the history of art

-Images before, during, and after the Holocaust, how things have changed

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

Stargardt, Nicholas. “Children’s Art of the Holocaust”. *Past and Present*, No 161 (Nov., 1998), pp. 191-235. Oxford University Press, 1998.

[Berek](#) by Artur Zmijewski

[Jewish Women's Archive](#)

[A Survey of the First Century of Jewish Women Artists: The Impact of Four Upheavals](#)

Levin, Gail. “Censorship, Politics and Sexual Imagery in the Work of Jewish American Feminist Artists”. *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women’s Studies and Gender Issues*, No. 14, Women in the Visual Arts (Fall 2007), pp. 63-96. Indiana University Press, 2007.

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. How does “make no graven images” (Exodus 20:4) play into studying Judaism from an art historical standpoint?
2. How have Jews portrayed their religion through imagery? Do you believe that this conflicts with Exodus 20:4?
3. What is the significance of food in Jewish tradition? How is this depicted through art?
4. What is the role of Jewish women traditionally? How are women’s roles portrayed in the Torah?
5. What was the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish representation?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

*Consider the roles of women in Jewish tradition. How have/are female Jewish artists following these traditions or for going against them? What are the implications made from their works of art in relation to the Jewish identity?

*Should art works such as "Berek" or "Game of Tag" be censored? Please explain how this work is viewed in various respects as being pro-Judaism or anti-Judaism.