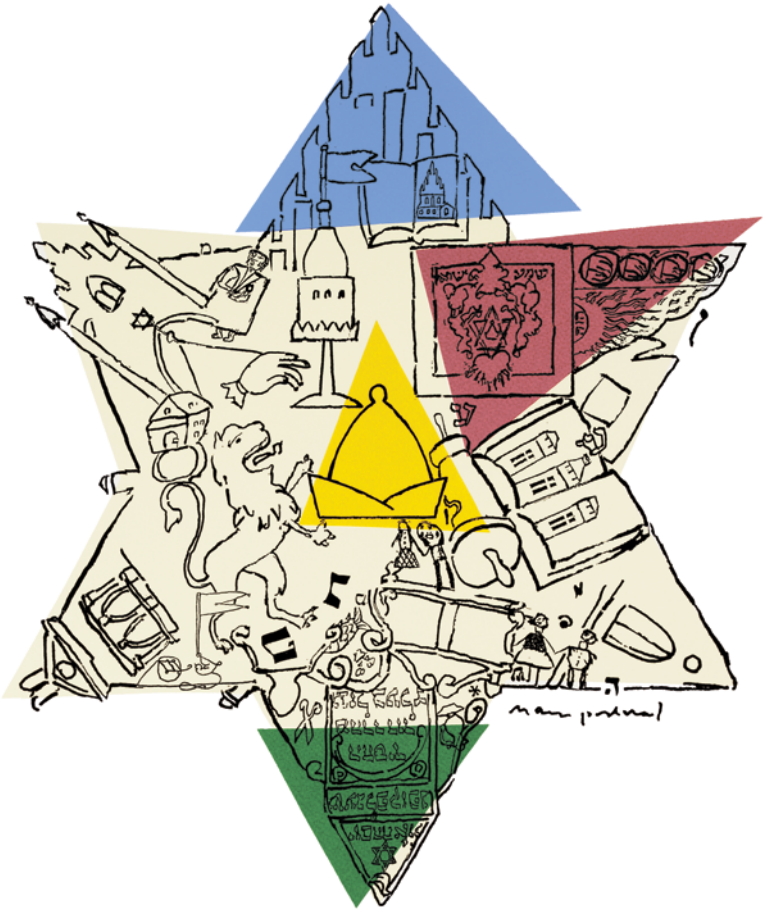
JUDAICA BOHEMIAE LX



JEWISH MUSEUM IN PRAGUE 2025

REPORTS

Arno Pařík

"MY SYNAGOGUE IS IN PRAGUE..." IN MEMORY OF MARK PODWAL (1945–2024)

The synagogue with which the New York-based physician and artist Mark Podwal was most associated was indeed in Prague. His many friends there were deeply saddened by his death on Friday the 13th of September 2024 – at the age of 79 after a long, serious illness, which he endured with great courage. He had only just managed to send word via his son that his days were ending and that he was bidding farewell with love. Nevertheless, the news of his death hit us hard. We had great affection for him. Since the early 1990s, his witty illustrations had been our faithful companions, just as he himself had been. He consistently returned with new ideas, which he carried out with remarkable ease, pleasure, and generosity. Moreover, he always said that he himself was the one most enriched by these experiences. He viewed the opportunity to create new textiles for the Old-New Synagogue (Altneuschul) and, later, for the synagogue in Brno as the highest honour. As he often said, work was a kind of prayer for him. He respected tradition, seeing it as a profound mystery and inspiring knowledge. His life's journey was also defined by the many friendships he forged and nurtured. We will never forget him.

Podwal's parents hailed from Galicia and Bessarabia, but he himself was born in Brooklyn in 1945. He studied medicine in New York, where he also worked successfully as a dermatologist in Manhattan. Yet, as he himself used to say: "My synagogue is in Prague..." Over the course of 28 years, during his visits to Prague, he would sit in the Old-New Synagogue on Shabbat. He came to Prague at least once or twice every year, and later even more frequently. His last visit was in mid-May 2024, during his illness, accompanied by his son Mike. He developed an interest in Prague's Jewish history back in 1979 when he was preparing a book about the Golem with writer Elie Wiesel. By then, he was already a well-known and respected illustrator and artist: he had published many of his own books and illustrated others by different authors. He also worked as an illustrator for the political commentary section of *The New York Times*. His first drawing appeared in a newspaper in 1972 and concerned the Munich Massacre of Israeli athletes. From then on, for over thirty years, he published political drawings and caricatures in *The New York Times*, commenting on American politics and events in the Middle East. In 1972, he also became interested in the plight of Soviet Jews and published a book of drawings titled *Let My People Go: A Haggadah*. This work paraphrased the traditional Pesach Haggadah, but instead of taking place in Egypt, it was set in

Russia. It was then that he began drawing pictures on traditional Jewish themes, which gradually became dominant in his work and to which he dedicated himself almost exclusively, particularly in his personal projects and children's books.



Mark Podwal in his studio, 2007. Photo by Darryl Pitt.

I first met Mark Podwal in 1996 when he accompanied his friend Elie Wiesel to Prague for a meeting with Václav Havel and Forum 2000. However, I had already heard about him during preparations for the *Precious Legacy* exhibition from colleagues visiting from New York's Jewish Museum, where he had exhibited his drawings several times. At that time, they brought us several copies of Wiesel's recently published book, *The Golem: The Legend of a Legend* (1983), which featured many of Podwal's illustrations of the Prague ghetto, meticulously drawn with the help of period photographs. As he himself later recounted, that book changed his life, not only for its content but because it brought him to Prague. It seemed incredible to me then that the long-forgotten story of the Golem was being revived, not in Prague, but in modern city of New York. It was then that we agreed on Podwal's exhibition, *The Jewish Dreams* (1997), at the gallery of the Klausen Synagogue, and published our first interview with him in *Roš Chodeš*



Mark Podwal, *Rabbi Loew and the Golem in the Old-New Synagogue*, ink on paper, 1982. JMP 179.621.

(1996/12), the monthly journal of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic. The exhibition drew on the history and monuments of Jewish Prague, reanimating them with a poetic spirit and bringing them into the present. It was one of the most interesting art exhibitions successfully held at the Jewish Museum in Prague after the fall of the communist regime.



Mark Podwal, *Ghetto Streets*, ink on paper, 1980.
JMP, Inv. No. 178.433.

According to Podwal himself, his artwork was primarily inspired by Jewish culture and spiritual tradition, a world of legends and stories about dybbuks, the Golem, and life in the Eastern European communities from which his parents came to America in the 1920s. He had already published *A Book of Hebrew Letters* (1978), and for biblical and Midrashic legends about animals, he illustrated *The Jewish Bestiary* (1984) – a collection of real and fantastical stories that once captivated the imaginations of rabbis and synagogue painters alike. Another

of his books, *The Book of Tens* (1994), is inspired by numerical mysticism and explores the interpretation of the number ten in the Bible and Kabbalah. His version of the Golem story, *The Golem: A Giant Made of Mud* (1995), one of his first books with colour illustrations, is aimed at children. Soon after, his illustrations appeared in Francine Prose's *Dybbuk: A Story Made in Heaven* (1996) and *The Angel's Mistake – Stories of Chelm* (1997), as well as *Jewish Days* by Francine Klagsbrun (1996).



Mark Podwal, *Prague Spires*, ink on paper, 1997. JMP, Inv. No. 179.049.

Although Podwal's drawings appear deceptively simple, they invariably introduce a new idea, metaphor, or joke. He draws inspiration from the shape of Hebrew letters, ancient books and scrolls, the forms of traditional ritual objects, and Kabbalistic symbols, but also from the decoration of tombstones and synagogues in Prague or Jerusalem. His combination of symbolic motifs creates new connections, imbues old themes with a unique quality, and uncovers their hidden meaning: a Torah scroll (the Scroll of Teaching, or the Scroll of the Law) embraces the cramped ghetto houses more tightly than a city wall, and the lines of fate in the palm of the *hamsa* capture the map of its streets. The clock with a Hebrew dial from the Jewish Town Hall soars into the night sky, travelling like the moon over a city with Gothic spires that have for centuries inspired the shapes of Shabbat spice boxes. Perhaps Podwal's greatest success lies in expressing Jewish spirituality through Hebrew letters, which float freely in the air, ascend like words of prayer to the heavens, or cluster into various combinations, shapes, or figures.

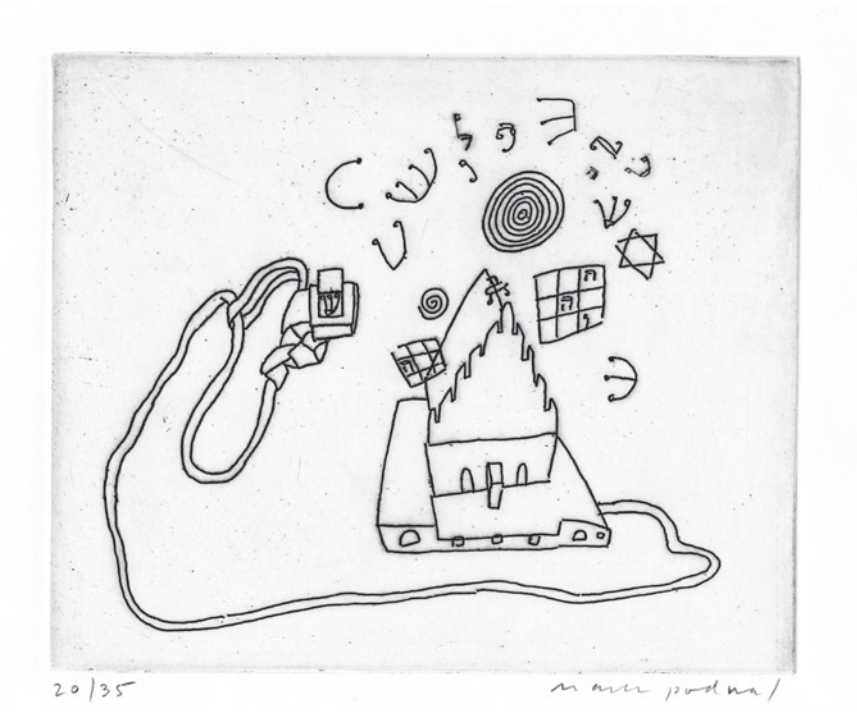
Mark Podwal was always interested in our work and consistently brought new ideas to the table. Many of these inspired us and often led to collaborative projects. In 2001, he illustrated *The Jewish Museum in Prague Calendar for 5762/2002*, the main theme of which was vibrant gouaches depicting motifs of the Prague ghetto and Jewish cemetery, as well as various ritual objects commemorating the principal holidays. In 2009, Podwal once again provided us with his artwork for *The Jewish Museum in Prague Calendar 5770/2010*, the central theme of which was time, sanctified by Jews through the celebration of Shabbat, the New Year, and other holidays, or by remembering significant days in Jewish history. He twice provided the Jewish Museum in Prague with a collection of his Prague motifs for postcards (1997, 2010).

In 2006, the Jewish Museum in Prague celebrated its 100th anniversary, and for the occasion, Podwal created a silkscreen print poster titled *Prague Star*, as it was in Prague that the Star of David first became a symbol of the Jewish community. The Prague Star, with a Jewish hat at its centre, is composed of colourful triangles and drawings of various Prague Jewish symbols, including the rampant lion and synagogue shields. The Jewish Museum also organised an exhibition, titled *Visual Metaphors in the Art of Mark Podwal* (2006), at the new American Cultural Centre in Vratislavský Palace in Prague's Lesser Town. Here, we displayed his drawings from the museum's collection, alongside new works and children's books such as *The Menorah Story* (1998), which explains the tales of Hanukkah, *A Sweet Year* (2003), which commemorates holiday celebrations, and *Jerusalem Sky* (2005), which explores Jewish, Christian, and Muslim legends associated with Jerusalem.

In 2009, the Jewish Museum in Prague organized a major exhibition, titled *Path of Life: Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel (ca. 1525–1609)* at the Imperial Stables of Prague Castle. This extensive exhibition marked the 400th Jahrzeit (anniversary of death) of the Chief Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel, known as Maharal, and was dedicated to the life and work of Prague's most famous rabbi. Podwal illustrated numerous legends associated with Rabbi Loew and his Golem, and some of these illustrations were displayed there. For this anniversary, the Prague Jewish Community and Charles University jointly organized a conference on the work and thoughts of the Prague Maharal. Podwal designed a poster for the conference, composed of the four letters of the Maharal acronym. These letters incorporated various references to the rabbi's life, including the Old-New Synagogue and his tombstone in the Old Jewish Cemetery.

Podwal's work, however, wasn't solely confined to painting pictures and illustrating books. In connection with Prague and its Jewish monuments, he wrote a screenplay and, with director Allain Miller and Czech Television, filmed the documentary *House of Life: The Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague* (2009). In this film, he delves not only into the past of the historic cemetery but also, through interviews with historians and conservators, explores the efforts to preserve its tombstones. He also captured its contemporary life through direct discussions with guides and visitors to the Old Jewish Cemetery. In Prague, Podwal had his own seat in the Old-New Synagogue, and during his stays, he never missed the morning Shabbat service. Europe's oldest active synagogue, its history, Gothic

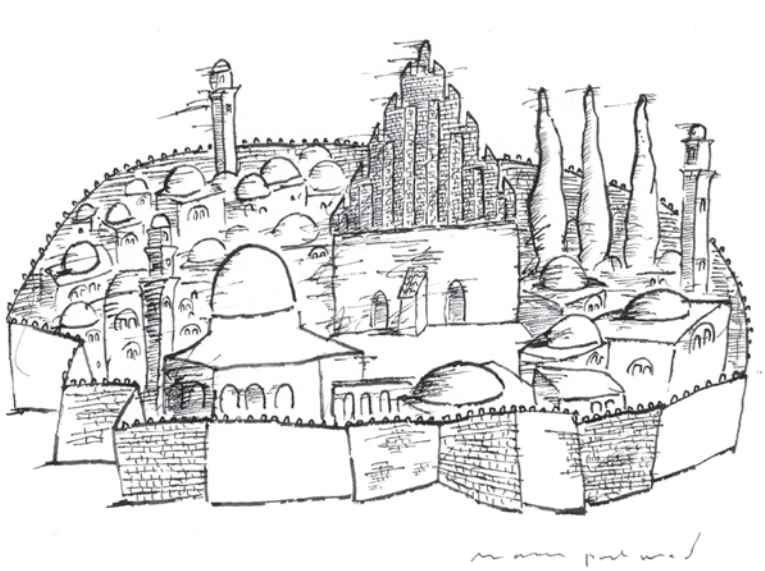
architecture, and the services held there profoundly affected him. From old stories and legends, he compiled a children's book, titled *Built by Angels: The Story of the Old-New Synagogue* (2009), which was published in New York and later also in Czech translation by the Jewish Museum in Prague. In the book, Podwal narrates and illustrates legends about how angels once brought stones for its construction from the demolished Jerusalem Temple, how the synagogue miraculously survived all calamities, and how it will one day return to Jerusalem on the wings of angels.



Mark Podwal, *Rabbis' Street*, etching on paper, 1999. JMP, Inv. No. 177.560.

In the spring of 2011, Prague Rabbi Ephraim K. Sidon asked Podwal to create a new Torah ark curtain for the Old-New Synagogue. Podwal considered this task his greatest honour and life's mission. He designed a dark red curtain, which features twelve Torah pointers along its sides, pointing up towards the heavens, from where the wisdom of the Torah descends and our prayers ascend to the Lord. In the centre of the curtain, beneath the Crown of the Torah, two rampant lions hold a Torah scroll, which is crowned by the walls of Jerusalem, above which can also be seen the shield of the Old-New Synagogue. The lower part of the curtain is adorned with five *rimmonim*, symbolising the five Books of Moses and all 613 mitzvot derived from the Torah. Podwal concurrently designed the decoration for three Torah mantles, featuring the banner of the Prague Jewish Community and an

abbreviation of the Hebrew dedication. In 2012, he also designed a white curtain for the High Holy Days and dark blue embroidered covers for the *shulchan* (the table on the *bimah* where the Torah is read from), and the *amud* (cantor's lectern) in front of the ark. During the dedication of the new textiles in the Old-New Synagogue, a documentary, titled *My Synagogue is in Prague* (March 2012), was produced in collaboration with Czech Television, in which Mark discusses his relationship with Prague and the Old-New Synagogue, and what this work meant to him.



Mark Podwal, *Old-New Synagogue in Jerusalem*, ink on paper, 1997.
JMP, Inv. No. 177.199.

To coincide with the dedication of the new textiles in the Old-New Synagogue, another Podwal exhibition, *The Jewish Magic in the Art of Mark Podwal*, took place at Prague's Robert Guttmann Gallery in June – November 2012. Here, he showcased his works dealing with the topics of Jewish mysticism and magic. These included drawings of floating Hebrew letters, inspired by the *Sefer Yetzirah*; others portray Kabbalistic *sefirot* and magical amulets, as well as the Angel Metatron or the fearsome demoness Lilith, and even the prophet Elijah in a fiery celestial chariot. As part of the exhibition, Czech Television broadcast a discussion with Podwal on Marek Eben's talk show *Na plovárně*. In the following years, Podwal created two more beautiful Torah ark curtains for the Brno Jewish community's modern Agudas Achim Synagogue. The large, dark blue curtain for the Aron Kodesh (Holy Ark) in the main hall features a large Hanukkah menorah, from whose branches colourful wildflowers emerge. The light blue Torah ark curtain for the small prayer room is adorned with winged, floating letters of the Hebrew alphabet. For the synagogue, he also created a white embroidered curtain for the

High Holy Days, depicting a Crown of Torah and lions holding a prayer book and a shofar, along with several mantles and a cover for the cantor's lectern. The new textiles for the Brno synagogue were ceremonially dedicated in January 2015. Podwal not only designed all the textiles for the Old-New Synagogue and the Brno synagogue but also found the sponsors and personally oversaw the costly embroideries in New York.

Podwal visited Terezín multiple times, a place through which the majority of Jews from Prague, Bohemia and Moravia passed between 1941 and 1945, when the Theresienstadt Ghetto was in operation. Within the ghetto, however, intense cultural life continued during the Shoah. At the Terezín Memorial, Podwal also became familiar with the "illegal" drawings by Terezín artists and children, which deeply affected him. Under their influence, he created his extensive cycle of 42 drawings, *All This Has Come Upon Us…* (Psalm 44:18), between 2013 and 2014. This series recalls events linked to antisemitism and the persecution of Jews, ranging from their enslavement in Egypt, the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, and medieval Crusades, to modern pogroms in Russia and the Nazi Kristallnacht pogrom, together with images from the Theresienstadt Ghetto and Auschwitz. However, these drawings and symbols of persecution and hatred are simultaneously accompanied by verses of prayer from the Book of Psalms, which imbue all human suffering with deeper meaning and purpose. Podwal first exhibited this comprehensive cycle at the Ghetto Museum in the Terezín Memorial in 2014. It was there that the documentary *Mark Podwal's Art for Terezín* (2015) was produced in collaboration with Czech Television. The cycle was also exhibited at the Czech Embassy in London and at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (both in 2015), as well as at other venues. Podwal donated author's copies of the cycle to leading libraries in the United States, Israel, and Europe, including the Vatican Library.

In May 2016, Podwal travelled from Prague to the small town of Dąbrowa Białostocka in northeastern Poland, his mother's birthplace, which was completely destroyed during the Shoah. Deeply moved by his visit, he created a cycle of drawings dedicated to the memory of the town and its inhabitants. These works were published in the book *Kaddish for Dąbrowa Białostocka* (2020) and exhibited at the Ghetto Museum in the Terezín Memorial (2021). Also connected to Terezín are Podwal's logo and illustrations for *The Last Cyclist*, a play that was written in Theresienstadt and later reconstructed by Naomi Patz, the wife of Rabbi Norman Patz (2013, 2017), with whom Podwal first visited the Terezín Memorial.

Podwal, however, did not only specialize in Jewish motifs, although he certainly preferred them. He loved music, particularly Mozart and Italian opera, and was also familiar with Mahler's symphonies and the works of Czech composers Antonín Dvořák and Leoš Janáček. Mark created also several limited edition print posters for Met Opera in New York, the first one for Verdi's Nabucco, the other for Mozart's seven most famous operas. In 2015, he created one of his larger cycles, *Mozart and Prague*, dedicated to Mozart's life and work in Prague, especially concerning the premiere of the opera Don Giovanni at the Estates Theatre on 29 October 1787. This collection was exhibited first in 2016 at the Klementinum Gallery in Prague, alongside Mozart's scores from the Czech Museum of Music,

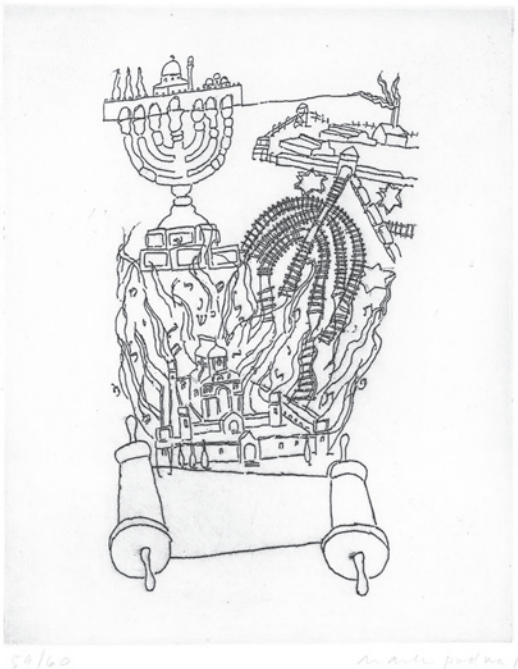
subsequently in the foyer of the Estates Theatre and at the Don Giovanni Hotel in Prague. The Czech Center in New York produced the documentary *Mark Podwal's Mozart and Prague* for this occasion. At that time, Podwal also contributed a cycle of his drawings to the exhibition *"Come, My Beloved…" – Illustrations for the Song of Songs* (2016), which was held at the Jewish Museum in Prague's Robert Guttmann Gallery alongside works by prominent Czech artists and illustrators from the collection of the Museum of Czech Literature.

As recently as 2023, Podwal drew a set of five black-and-white postcards for the 100th anniversary of the death of Franz Kafka in 2024, featuring unusual portraits of his favourite writer, whose Prague life and diaries he intimately knew. In his last work, Podwal returned to the theme of time, creating a zodiac floor mosaic in the vestibule of the Eldridge Street Synagogue in New York's Lower East Side (2024); each sign of the zodiac is paired with the first Hebrew letter of the corresponding month in the Hebrew calendar, recalling the ancient mosaics in the Beit Alpha and Hammat Tiberias synagogues in Israel.

Aside from his solo exhibitions, Podwal also exhibited his artworks and books in numerous group shows, including *From Jerusalem to Prague* at Espace Rachi, Centre d'Art et Culture in Paris (2013). For The Metropolitan Museum of Art 2005 large exhibition, *Prague the Crown of Bohemia*, he created two prints and gold pendant, brooch, and metal *hamsa* bookmark. His cycle of works on the persecution of Jews, *All This Has Come Upon Us*, was featured during the European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage at the New Town Hall Gallery in Brno (2014) and at the Shamayim Jewish Culture Festival in the Rear Synagogue in the Jewish Quarter of Třebíč (2014), as well as at the Czech Embassy in London (2015). For the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic in 2015, as part of the Revitalization of Jewish Monuments in the Czech Republic project, he drew a series of depictions of renovated synagogues under the title *10 Stars*, which is displayed in various synagogues across the Czech Republic until now. Besides Prague and Brno, he visited Český Krumlov and places of traditional Jewish culture and monuments such as Třebíč, Boskovice, Holešov, and Mikulov. He also occasionally travelled from Prague to Vienna, Dresden, Amsterdam, and Paris.

Podwal always willingly and freely provided his drawings and illustrations of Prague Jewish motifs to the Jewish Museum in Prague, as well as to the Jewish communities in Prague and elsewhere. However, they most frequently appear on the covers of the Czech Federation of Jewish Communities' *Roš Chodeš*, *Luach*, and Jewish Yearbook. For the Prague Jewish Community, Podwal designed a new logo based on the historic Star of David emblem with a Jewish hat at its centre. He also drew logos for the Terezín Initiative Institute and an ex-libris for the prayer books of the Old New Synagogue. In connection with his exhibitions, the Jewish Museum in Prague acquired a sizeable collection of his drawings and gouaches for its holdings. He also donated his works to the Terezín Memorial, the Czech National Library, and the National Gallery in Prague. Sefer publishing house issued a Czech translation of his *Jewish Bestiary* (1998), and the Jewish Museum in Prague published *Built by Angels: The Story of the Old-New Synagogue* (2020), translated by Pavla Niklová.

In 2015, during a stay in Prague, he discussed with us preparation of his extensive monograph, titled *Reimagined: 45 Years of Jewish Art by Mark Podwal* (New York & London, 2016). This publication included introductory texts by Elie Wiesel, Cynthia Ozick, and Elisheva Carlebach, along with lists of all his exhibitions, illustrated books, and numerous other projects and awards he received during almost 50 years of creative work. In 2019, he received the Gratias Agit Award from the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs "for promoting the good name of the Czech Republic internationally". A complete list of his works, including his latest pieces, can be found at www.markpodwal.com, a website maintained by his son, Ariel.



Mark Podwal, *In Every Generation…*, etching on paper, 1998. JMP, Inv. No. 179.053.

Although Mark Podwal never formally studied art – and as he said, he "just loved to draw from childhood" – he nevertheless succeeded in making his mark in America, Israel, and Europe, where his exhibitions were held, and his works are represented in leading public collections. He was not only gifted but also very hard-working artist, which enabled him to realize virtually all his artistic intentions and dreams. His work offered us a fresh perspective on contemporary Jewish art, in which he successfully fused traditional Jewish values with modern artistic form and expression. He lived an extraordinarily rich creative life, and through his art, he also made his friends and readers more perceptive and joyful.

BOOKS BY MARK PODWAL

A Jewish Bestiary: Fabulous Creatures from Hebraic Legend and Lore, University Park: Penn State University Press, 2021.
A Collage of Customs: Iconic Jewish Woodcuts Revised for the Twenty-First Century, Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 2021.
Kaddish for Dąbrowa Białostocka, Terezín: Terezín Memorial, 2020.
Reimagined. 45 Years of Jewish Art Mark Podwal, foreword by Elie Wiesel, preface by Cynthia Ozick, essay by Elisheva Carlebach, New York – London: Glitterati Incorporated, 2016.
Built by Angels: The Story of the Old-New Synagogue, New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009.
Doctored Drawings, New York: Bellevue Literary Press, 2007.
Jerusalem Sky, New York: Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 2005.
A Sweet Year, New York: Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 2003.
The Menorah Story, New York: Greenwillow Books, 1998.
Golem: A Giant Made of Mud, New York: Greenwillow Books, 1995.
The Book of Tens, New York: Greenwillow Books, 1994.
A Jewish Bestiary, Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1984.
Leonardo di Freud, Milan: Sperling and Kupfer Editori, 1982.
A Book of Hebrew Letters, Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1978.
The Decline and Fall of the American Empire, New York: Darien House, 1971.

SELECTED ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

Robert Jan Van Pelt, *How Beautiful Are Your Tents Jacob: An Atlas of Jewish Space*, Zurich: Park Books, 2021.
Elie Wiesel, *The Tale of a Niggun*, New York: Schocken Books, 2020.
Heinrich Heine, *Hebrew Melodies*, University Park: Penn State University Press, 2019.
Charles Middleburgh – Andrew Goldstein, eds., *A Jewish Book of Comfort*, Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2014.
Mishkan T'filah for Youth, New York: CCAR Press, 2014.
Alan S. Yoffie, *Sharing the Journey. The Haggadah for the Contemporary Family*, New York: CCAR Press, 2014.
Harold Bloom, *Fallen Angels*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007.
Francine Prose, *The Demons' Mistake: A Story from Chelm*, New York: Greenwillow Books, 2000.
Elie Wiesel, *King Solomon and His Magic Ring*, New York: Greenwillow Books, 1999.
Ileene Smith Sobel, *Moses and the Angels*, Introduction by Elie Wiesel, New York: Delacorte Press, 1999.
Elie Wiesel, *Le Golem: Légende d'une légende*, Paris: Éditions du Rocher, 1998.

Francine Prose, *You Never Know: A Legend of the Lamed-vavniks*, New York: Greenwillow Books, 1998.
Francine Prose, *The Angel's Mistake: Stories of Chelm*, New York: Greenwillow Books, 1997.
Francine Prose, *Dybbuk: A Story Made in Heaven*, New York: Greenwillow Books, 1996.
Francine Klagsbrun, *Jewish Days*, New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1996.
Elie Wiesel, *A Passover Haggadah*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993.
Elie Wiesel, *The Six Days of Destruction*, Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1988.
Elie Wiesel, *The Elie Wiesel Collection*, Paris: The Bibliophile Library, 1985–1988 (14 Vols).
Howard Schwartz, *The Captive Soul of the Messiah*, New York: Schocken Books, 1983.
Francine Klagsbrun, *Voices of Wisdom*, New York: Pantheon, 1979.
The Book of Lamentations, New York: The National Council on Art in Jewish Life,1974.
Let My People Go: A Haggadah, introduction by Theodore Bikel, foreword by Abba Eban, New York: Macmillan, 1972.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 *Mosaic Zodiac Signs* in the vestibule of Museum at Eldridge Street Synagogue, Lower East Side, New York, NY
2023 *Juxtapositions of Understanding*, Dr Bernard Heller Museum, New York, NY
2022 *A Collage of Customs*, Cincinnati Skirball Museum, Cincinnati, OH (catalogue)
2021 *Kaddish for Dąbrowa Białostocka*, Terezín Ghetto Museum, Terezín, Czech Republic (catalogue)
2016 *Mozart and Prague*, Klementinum Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic
2015 *All This Has Come Upon Us*, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel
Jewish Bestiary, Jewish Cultural Center, Munich, Germany
All This Has Come Upon Us, Embassy of the Czech Republic, London, United Kingdom
2014 *All This Has Come Upon Us*, Terezín Ghetto Museum, Terezín, Czech Republic (catalogue)
All This Has Come Upon Us, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ
Old Jewish Town Within Us, Embassy of the Czech Republic, Washington, DC
European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage, New Town Hall Gallery, Brno, Czech Republic
Shamayim Jewish Culture Festival, Rear Synagogue, Třebíč, Czech Republic
2013 *From Jerusalem to Prague*, Espace Rachi, Centre d'Art et Culture, Paris, France

2012 *Jewish Magic in the Art of Mark Podwal*, Jewish Museum in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic (catalogue)
Sharing the Journey, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
2011 *Old and the New: Mark Podwal's Textiles for the Altneuschul in Prague*, Yeshiva University Museum, Center for Jewish History, New York, NY
Doctored Drawings, Smilow Gallery, NYU Langone Medical Center, New York, NY
2008 *Jewish Magic*, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
2006 *Visual Metaphors in the Art of Mark Podwal*, Vratislavský Palace, Prague, Czech Republic
Kabbalistics, Forum Gallery, New York, NY (catalogue)
Framed by Words, Yeshiva University Museum, Center for Jewish History, New York, NY
2005 *Tales and Illuminations: The Art of Mark Podwal*, Yale University, New Haven, CT
2004 *A Sweet Year*, Skirball Museum, Los Angeles, CA
2003 *A Sweet Year*, Israel Museum, Ruth Youth Wing, Jerusalem, Israel
2001 *Of Times and Seasons*, Forum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
1999 *Legends and Visions*, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
1998 *Bamscapes*, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Brooklyn, NY
1997 *Jewish Dreams*, Jewish Museum in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic (catalogue)
1996 *Jewish Days*, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
1995 *A Passover Haggadah*, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, NY
1993 *A Passover Haggadah*, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
1990 *Ink and Inkling: Mark Podwal, Master of the True Line*, Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, South Hadley, MA; travelled to the Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA (catalogue)
1986 *A Jewish Bestiary*, National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia, PA
1982 Sir Isaac and Lady Edith Wolfson Museum, Hechal Shlomo, Jerusalem, Israel
1980 *A Book of Hebrew Letters*, Jewish Museum, New York, NY
1979 *A Book of Hebrew Letters*, Skirball Museum, Los Angeles, CA
1977 *Freud's Da Vinci*, Forum Gallery, New York, NY
Observations, Judah L. Magnes Museum, Berkeley, CA (catalogue)
1974 *Drawings by Mark Podwal*, B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum, Washington, DC
1973 *Lamentations*, Jewish Museum, New York, NY (catalogue)
1971 *The Decline and Fall of the American Empire*, Wickersham Gallery, New York, NY