

The Pozez Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia's Bodzin Art Gallery presents a rotating exhibition of artworks for our diverse community serving more than 15,000 individuals each year. In Fall, 2019, we had the pleasure of showing Rachel Braun's collection, "Embroidery and Sacred Text". People of all ages were spotted pausing by Ms. Braun's art in our busy gallery corridor. Her colors, patterns, and extraordinary intricacy gave our members and guests so much to enjoy. Her book of the same title was a great addition to the exhibition, and many embroidery enthusiasts and art lovers were glad to add this publication to their collections. The Cultural Arts staff continued to receive positive feedback about the exhibition after it ended, with people telling us how much they loved it and often pondering "how does she do that?"

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Artist and mathematician Rachel Braun's creativity and depth of knowledge led to a lively conversation about her art and the long tradition of interpreting Jewish text into new forms. The event attracted a large audience of men and women ranging from older scholars and community members to college students, all of whom were captivated by Braun's explanations of the hidden patterns in her art and the surprising reasons for her holding a Guinness World Record for her collection of graph paper. Braun's art is graceful and complex, and she speaks with both real passion and an infectious sense of humor. She is truly one of a kind.

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