

Carol Zemel

I am currently Professor Emerita of Art History and Visual Culture at York University, Toronto where I chaired the Department of Art and Art History from 2001-2006. I began my career as a scholar of Vincent van Gogh, and have written three books about the artist, among them, *Van Gogh's Progress* (University of California Press, 1997). Since then (and after an epiphany in an Amsterdam bookstore), I have focused my writing on Jewish Studies and the often disruptive work of modern and contemporary Jewish artists in diaspora. These include Vera Frenkel, Lucian Freud, Alter Kacyzne, R.J. Kitaj, Leon Kossoff, Bruno Shulz, and Tobaron Waxman, among others. My book *Looking Jewish: Visual Culture and Modern Diaspora* (University of Indiana Press, 2015) explores their work and careers.

I've published essays on Jewish art in *Images, C Magazine, Canadian Theatre Review, AJS Perspectives*, and the *Jewish Daily Forward*. Current projects include a study of Jewish visual humor, and *Critical Israel*, an exploration of 'edgy' contemporary art in Israel. During the spring term 2017, I was a Fellow at the Mandel Center, USHMM, Washington, working on my book project, *Art in Extremis*, a study of images made by prisoners in ghettos and camps during the Holocaust.

I've been a member of Shir Libeynu for four years. I enjoy the inclusiveness of the service, and I was honored to speak this Yom Kippur about the difficulty of forgiveness—a challenge and chance for some focused soul-searching. For the past two years, I've served on the Education Committee, and have organized the lively Speaker Series following Shabbat services. Stay tuned for Anna Shternshis, Sara Horowitz and Bernie Farber to round out this year's program.

I'd be pleased to serve on the synagogue Board, and to continue my active participation in the congregation.

December, 2017.