



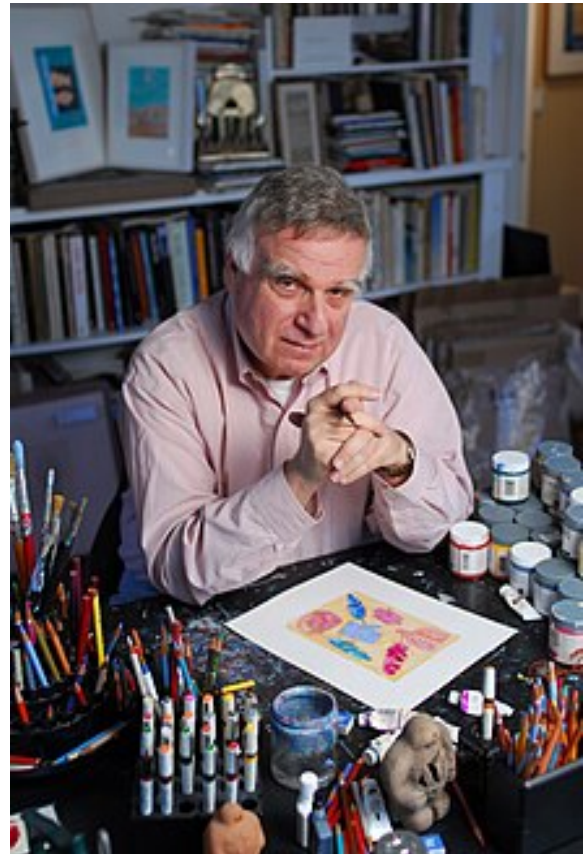
Mark Podwal

Mark Podwal (born June 8, 1945) is an artist, author, filmmaker and physician. He may have been best known initially for his drawings on The New York Times Op-Ed page. In addition, he is the author and illustrator of numerous books. Most of these works — Podwal's own as well as those he has illustrated for others— typically focus on Jewish legend, history and tradition.^[1] His art is represented in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Israel Museum, the National Gallery of Prague, the Jewish Museums in Berlin, Vienna, Stockholm, Prague, New York, among many other venues.

Projects and Installations

Beyond his works on paper, Podwal's artistry has been employed in an array of diverse projects, including the design of a series of decorative plates for the Metropolitan Museum of Art: *Passover Plate*, *Zodiac Platter* (Met Bestseller), and *Life Cycle* (Met Bestseller). His work has been animated for public television in *A Passover Seder with Elie Wiesel* (Time Warner), engraved on a Congressional Gold Medal presented by President Reagan to Elie Wiesel, and woven into an

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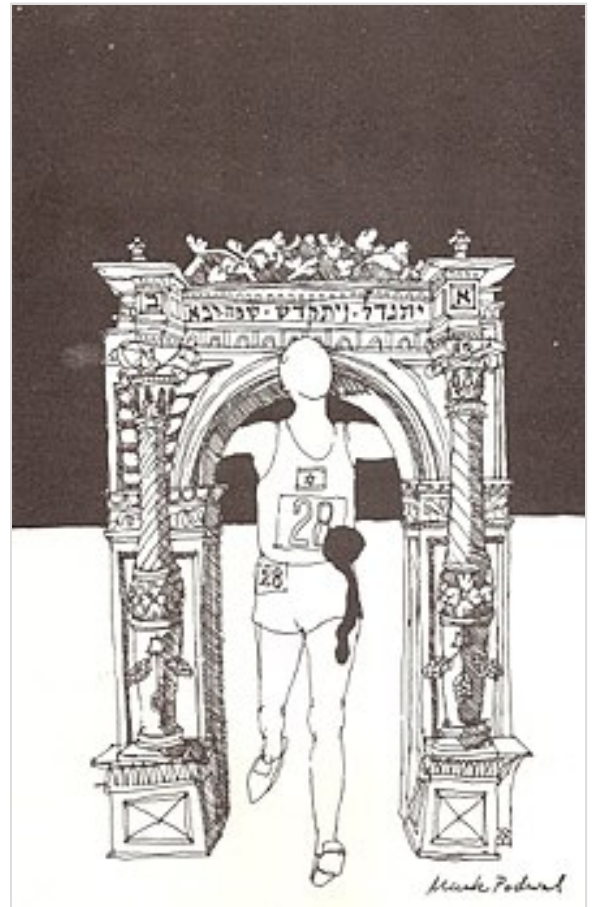


Artist in the studio (2007)

Born	June 8, 1945
Known for	<u>Watercolor</u> , <u>Drawing</u> , <u>Painting</u>
Website	http://www.markpodwal.com

Aubusson tapestry that adorned the ark in the main sanctuary of Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York. Moreover, he designed sixteen kiln cast glass panels for the United Jewish Appeal Federation Headquarters in New York. Podwal collaborated with Academy Award-winning filmmaker Allan Miller on the documentary House of Life: The Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague (<http://www.houseoflifefilm.com>), narrated by Claire Bloom. In 2009 and 2010, the film was broadcast on PBS.

In conjunction with the Anti-Defamation League, Podwal began *The Jerusalem Sky Project*, a program that fosters tolerance and awareness by bringing together young children from the Jewish, Islamic, and Christian communities. Participating religious schools study Podwal's *Jerusalem Sky* in their classrooms, and then encourage their students to illustrate their own depictions of Jerusalem. Amidst the learning, the children of each school write to or meet with their counterparts at a school of another faith and begin to learn about each other's religion and culture. After a few weeks, the program culminates with an exhibition of all of the drawings from each of the schools. At the opening of the exhibition, the children meet to enjoy each other's art and company. In a 2005 article called "Three Faiths, One Lesson", the *New York Times* covered the completion of the program at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in Brooklyn, NY.^[2] The project has since also been carried out in Los Angeles, CA, and Binghamton, NY. Regarding *Jerusalem Sky*, renowned children's author Maurice Sendak wrote, "All the earned and admiring praise – wondrous, luminous, magical – cannot catch the fierce bite, healthy spirit, and sheer joyousness of this superb book."



Mark Podwal's Munich Massacre in memory of Israeli athletes killed by Black September terrorists during 1972 Summer Olympics, published in the *New York Times* in 1972

In 2011, Podwal received commissions to illustrate a new Passover *Haggadah* for the Central Conference of American Rabbis Press; to design new embroidered textiles for Prague's 700-year-old Altneuschul; to create a limited edition print for the Metropolitan Opera's production of *Nabucco*; and to design *Hanukkah* cards for the Metropolitan Museum and the Metropolitan Opera.

In 2014, the Terezin Ghetto Museum exhibited Podwal's cycle *All This Has Come Upon Us*, a series of 42 paintings and drawings created especially for that venue.^[3] The works, which span Jewish history from the destruction of the two temples in Jerusalem, through the history of anti-Semitism and persecution in Europe, culminating in the Holocaust, have been described by the artist as offering "a disturbing reminder of how Europe's extensive history of 'Jew-hatred' laid the groundwork for Terezin and Auschwitz".^[3] The series has been published as a portfolio of archival pigment prints,^[3] which has been acquired by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Library of Congress, Yad Vashem, the Bodleian Library, the British Library, the Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, Yale University, Princeton University Library,^[4] Columbia University, Hebrew University, and the National Library of Israel, among many others.

In 2015, Mark Podwal was commissioned to design new textiles for the restored synagogue in the Czech city of Brno. At Prague's Klementinum, Podwal's series *Mozart and Prague* was exhibited along with Mozart's handwritten manuscripts.

In 2016, Glitterati Inc. published a 374-page monograph on his work, *Reimagined: 45 Years of Jewish Art*. Podwal's recent publications include his illustrations for Elie Wiesel's *The Tale of a Niggun* and Heinrich Heine's poems *Hebrew Melodies*, and his own *A Collage of Customs* and *A Jewish Bestiary*. Published in collaboration with the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial

Center to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the killings, *An Atlas of Jewish Space*, includes 139 of Podwal's images with a text by Holocaust scholar Robert Jan van Pelt.

Affiliations

Podwal is represented by Forum Gallery, New York and has exhibited there since 1977. He continues to pursue a parallel career as a physician and currently serves on the faculty of New York University Grossman School of Medicine as Adjunct Associate Professor of Dermatology.

Awards

1984: American Book Awards

1989: The Society of Newspaper Design Award

1993: Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres de la Republique Francaise

1996: Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres de la Republique Francaise

1998: National Jewish Book Award in the Children's Picture Book category for *You Never Know: A Legend of the Lamed-vavniks*. Text by Francine Prose^[5]

1999: Society of Illustrators Silver Medal

1999: Aesop Prize and Aesop Accolades American Folklore Society

2003: Doctor of Humane Letters Honoris Causa, Hebrew College, Newton Centre, MA

2009: Smithsonian Notable Book for Children

2010: New York University Grossman School of Medicine Alumnus Award
Medicine in the Humanities

2011: Foundation for Jewish Culture Achievement Award

2012: Victoria and Albert Museum Print of the Month

2019: Gratias Agit Award Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Czech Republic)

Films

2009: HOUSE OF LIFE: The Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-kzfvadZI4>) (Produced by Mark Podwal and Allan Miller)

2013: My Synagogue is in Prague: Picturing Mark Podwal (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7HHeANISbw>) (Produced by Czech Television)

2015: ALL THIS HAS COME UPON US: Mark Podwal's Art for Terezin (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kT9lTok5dc>) (Produced by Czech Television)

Publications

BOOKS BY THE ARTIST

1971: *The Decline and Fall of the American Empire*. Introduction by Peter Fonda. New York: Darien House

1978: *A Book of Hebrew Letters*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society

1982: *Leonardo di Freud*. Milan: Sperling and Kupfer Editori

1984: *A Jewish Bestiary*. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society

1994: *The Book of Tens*. New York: Greenwillow Books

1995: *Golem: A Giant Made of Mud*. New York: Greenwillow Books

1998: *The Menorah Story*. New York: Greenwillow Books

2003: *A Sweet Year*. New York: Random House

2005: *Jerusalem Sky*. New York: Random House

2007: *Doctored Drawings*. New York: Bellevue Literary Press

2009: *Built by Angels*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

2015: *Jüdisches Bestiarium*. Berlin: Hentrich & Hentrich

2016: *Reimagined: 45 Years of Jewish Art*. New York: Glitterati, Inc.

2018: *Kaddish for Dąbrowa Białostocka*. Amherst: Yiddish Book Center

2021: *A Collage of Customs: Iconic Jewish Woodcuts Revised for the Twenty-First Century*. Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press

2021: *A Jewish Bestiary: Fabulous Creatures from Hebraic Legend and Lore*. University Park: Penn State University Press

SELECTED ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

- 1972: *Let My People Go: A Haggadah*. Introduction by Theodore Bikel. Foreword by Abba Eban. New York: Macmillan
- 1972: *The Book of Lamentations*. New York: The National Council on Art in Jewish Life
- 1979: Klagsbrun, Francine. *Voices of Wisdom*. New York: Pantheon
- 1983: Schwartz, Howard. *The Captive Soul of the Messiah*. New York: Schocken Books
- 1985-1988: *The Elie Wiesel Collection*. Paris: The Bibliophile Library (Fourteen volumes)
- 1988: Wiesel, Elie. *The Six Days of Destruction*. Mahwah: Paulist Press
- 1993: Wiesel, Elie. *A Passover Haggadah*. New York: Simon and Schuster
- 1996: Klagsbrun, Francine. *Jewish Days*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux
- 1996: Prose, Francine. *Dybbuk: A Marriage Made in Heaven*. New York: Greenwillow Books
- 1997: Prose, Francine. *The Angel's Mistake: Stories of Chelm*. New York: Greenwillow Books
- 1998: Prose, Francine. *You Never Know: A Legend of the Lamed-vavniks*. New York: Greenwillow Books
- 1998: Wiesel, Elie. *Le Golem: Legende d'une legende*. Paris: Bibliophane/Editions du Rocher
- 1999: Sobel, Ilene Smith. *Moses and the Angels*. Introduction by Elie Wiesel. New York: Delacorte Press
- 1999: Wiesel, Elie. *King Solomon and His Magic Ring*. New York: Greenwillow Books
- 2000: Prose, Francine. *The Demons' Mistake: A Story from Chelm*. New York: Greenwillow Books
- 2007: Bloom, Harold. *Fallen Angels*. New Haven: Yale University Press
- 2012: Yoffie, Alan S. *Sharing the Journey: The Haggadah for the Contemporary Family*. New York: CCAR Press
- 2014: *Mishkan T'filah for Youth*. New York: CCAR Press
- 2014: Middleburgh, Charles and Goldstein, Andrew. *A Jewish Book of Comfort*. Norwich: Canterbury Press
- 2018: *Mishkan HaNefesh for Youth*. New York: CCAR Press

2019: *Heine, Heinrich. Hebrew Melodies.* University Park: Penn State University Press

2020: Elie Wiesel. *The Tale of a Niggun.* New York: Schocken Books

2021: Van Pelt, Robert Jan. *How Beautiful Are Your Tents Jacob: An Atlas of Jewish Space.* Zurich: Park Books

SOLO EXHIBITIONS CATALOGUES

1977: *Observations.* Berkeley: Judah L. Magnes Museum

1990: Ozick, Cynthia. *Ink and Inkling: Mark Podwal Master of the True Line.* South Hadley: Mount Holyoke College Art Museum

1997: Wiesel, Elie. *Mark Podwal: Jewish Dreams.* Prague: Jewish Museum

2006: *Kabbalistics.* New York: Forum Gallery

2012: Carlebach, Elisheva. *Jewish Magic in the Art of Mark Podwal.* Prague: Jewish Museum

2014: *All this has come upon us.* Terezin: Terezin Memorial

2020: *Kaddish for Dąbrowa Białostocka.* Terezin: Terezin Memorial

Notes

1. Ozick, Cynthia (8 October 2016). "Master of the True Line Cynthia Ozick introduces artist Mark Podwal's new collected works" (<http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-arts-and-culture/212389/master-of-the-true-line>). *Tablet*. Retrieved 9 September 2016.
2. "Three Faiths, One Lesson" (<https://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/20/arts/design/20mosa.html>)
3. Kestenbaum, Gloria (October 23, 2014). "An Illustrated Saga of the Diaspora (<https://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/an-illustrated-saga-of-the-diaspora/>)". *The Jewish Week*. jewishweek.timesofisrael.com. Retrieved November 24, 2017.
4. "All This Has Come Upon Us" (<https://graphicarts.princeton.edu/2014/10/08/all-this-has-come-upon-us/>). *Graphic Arts Collection, Rare Books and Special Collections, Firestone Library*. Princeton University. Retrieved 22 February 2016.
5. "Past Winners of the National Jewish Book Award for Children's Picture Book" (<https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/awards/national-jewish-book-a>

[wards/past-winners?category=30738](#)). *Jewish Book Council*. Retrieved 2020-01-30.

References

- Cipolla, Benedicta. [Mark Podwal: A Vision Vaster than Words](https://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week925/exclusive.html) (<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week925/exclusive.html>) in *Religion & Ethics News Weekly* (PBS), February 17, 2006 (Episode no. 925)
- Random House. [Mark Podwal: author spotlight](http://www.randomhouse.com/author/results.pperl?authorid=45169&view=full_sptlight) (http://www.randomhouse.com/author/results.pperl?authorid=45169&view=full_sptlight)
- Somerstein, Rachel. [Mark Podwal: Yeshiva University Museum](https://web.archive.org/web/20070325123737/http://www.forumgallery.com/product/press_160_7.pdf) (https://web.archive.org/web/20070325123737/http://www.forumgallery.com/product/press_160_7.pdf) in *ARTnews*, June 2006
- Wecker, Menachem. [Mark Podwal: Forum Gallery](http://www.jewishpress.com/pageroute.do/36513/The_Frog_the_Demons.html) (http://www.jewishpress.com/pageroute.do/36513/The_Frog_the_Demons.html) in "The Jewish Press", October 2008, and [Mark Podwal's Doctored Drawings](http://www.jewishpress.com/pageroute.do/22117/The_Art_Of_Jewish_Medicine.html) (http://www.jewishpress.com/pageroute.do/22117/The_Art_Of_Jewish_Medicine.html) in "The Jewish Press", July 2007

External links

- [MarkPodwal.com](http://www.markpodwal.com/) (<http://www.markpodwal.com/>)
- [Forum Gallery: Mark Podwal](https://web.archive.org/web/20070807004436/http://www.forumgallery.com/adetail.php?id=160) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070807004436/http://www.forumgallery.com/adetail.php?id=160>)
- [House of Life](http://www.houseoflifefilm.com/) (<http://www.houseoflifefilm.com/>)

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