

# Robin Atlas & Nancy Current

## Exhibition Statement

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Words have always been a catalyst for civil discord, and today hate speech is increasingly prevalent, tearing apart the fabric of our communities in ever more violent and destructive ways. Examples of hate speech are everywhere, in our personal and work lives and in the public sphere. They pass from generation to generation by written and spoken word, inculcating attitudes of intolerance, anti-Semitism, racism and discrimination in both children and adults.

This exhibit illuminates hate speech, its historically destructive manifestations and the consequences for humanity. The exhibit also advocates the antidote: Educating our children and taking responsibility to condemn hate speech in any form. In this respect, the show is both timely and timeless, resonating with all ages and cultures.

Robin Atlas's narrative entitled *Lashon Hara* (Hebrew for "evil speech") reflects her own personal experiences with hate speech as well as looking at the effects of hate speech in both the physical and spiritual realms. Her work features twenty deconstructed pieces of diverse elements coalesced on hand-dyed, manipulated and collaged fabric, using methods such as hand embroidery, freehand machine stitching, printmaking and other creative techniques.

*L'Dor Vador* ("from generation to generation" in Hebrew), Nancy Current's series of figurative glass paintings and prints, uses fragments of ancient writings as a metaphor for the education of children. The visceral attraction of light, color and glass combined with non-traditional glass painting and print-making conveys the responsibility of education and action to prevent hate speech and its consequences.

**13 · In B'nei Shlosa**  
Gossip in front of three. Spreading the  
disease even further



**DETAIL ABOVE**  
*Black seed beads rain lashon hara down from the heavens while at the same time the black bugle beads carry the lashon hara towards the heavens.*

**DETAIL RIGHT**  
*The paper collage represents the purity of the soul before being tarnished by lashon hara*





RIGHT

**14 · In the Garden of Good and Evil (Chilul Hashem)**

Lashon Hara as the diseased tree of life; seeds falling to the ground; new pods of Lashon Hara begin to sprout and grow (l'dor vador).



**DETAIL TOP LEFT**

The seed beads in the center represent the seeds of lashon hara.

**DETAIL BELOW**

The gold bugle beads represent the mature lashon hara hanging from the edges of the tree. The seeds are ready to drop and take root and perpetuate the cycle again for the next generation.



**DETAIL BOTTOM LEFT**

The stitching on the trunk of the tree represents the web of lies and deceit that is lashon hara.



# Untitled

by Rosemary Nowicki

## 1) Imagine if conversation always happened without Lashon Hara

Following all the rules,  
Not just the one about evil speech.  
To adhere to all the precepts  
Nothing---good or bad, truth or falsehood---about  
an absent person.  
I'm sure conversations would not just become a discussion of the weather...  
...at least I think I am sure.

## 2) I have trouble responding to this:

Even if I have been the object of Lashon Hara  
I just don't care.  
Does that sound smug?  
I am sure it does.  
Most people who have broken my heart with words  
Have done so to my face.  
And, as often as not, without realizing it.

## 3) " If you don't have anything good to say about anyone, come sit beside me"

-Alice Roosevelt Longworth

Honestly, all this has made me think  
I may have to stop talking,  
I may have to stop listening.  
We all know the power of words---  
That is why we are here after all.  
I have agonized about being so flippant  
about this very serious transgression.  
I know I am guilty of Lashon Hara,  
In fact, I don't think I know anyone who isn't.  
It has been a good reminder to me to be careful  
what I say and to whom I say it.  
But I prefer the mantra my father gave to me many years ago  
"Be honest, straightforward and to the point".  
If you can offer the same to me, maybe we can talk.

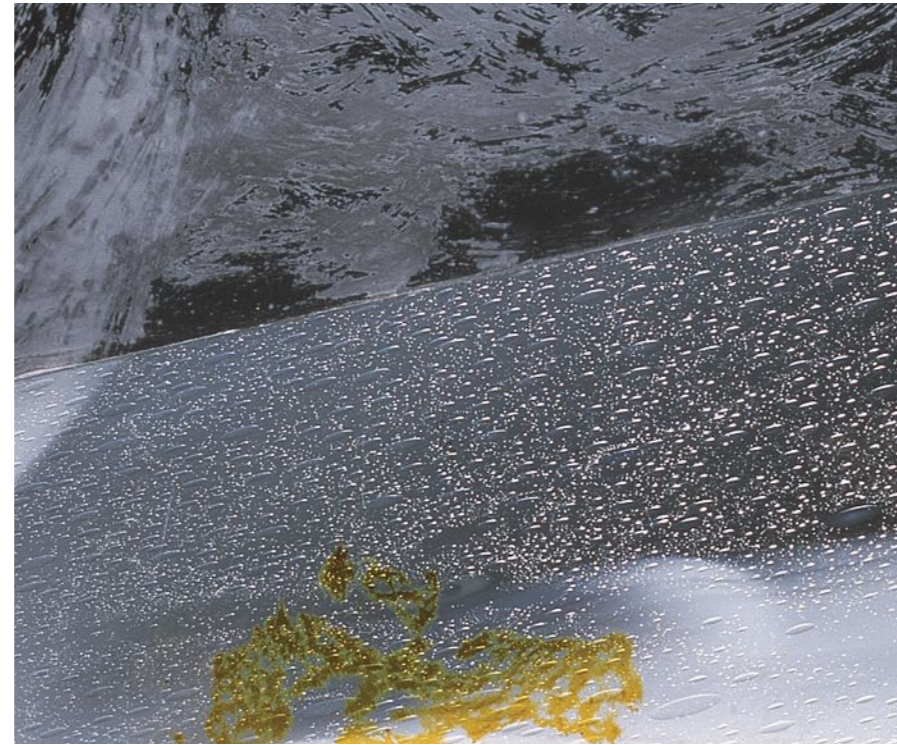


**DETAIL ABOVE**

*Illustrates some of the painting and printing techniques used: Hand painted figures with monotype and screen printed versions of ancient Hebrew manuscripts.*

**DETAIL RIGHT**

*Characteristics of hand-made stained glass: The bubbles scatter light. Above them are brush-strokes etched into the plate glass.*



**FACING**

**In Seeking Wisdom, the First Step Is Silence**





FACING

In Seeking Wisdom, the Third Step Is Remembering

LEFT

In Seeking Wisdom, the Fourth Step Is Practicing