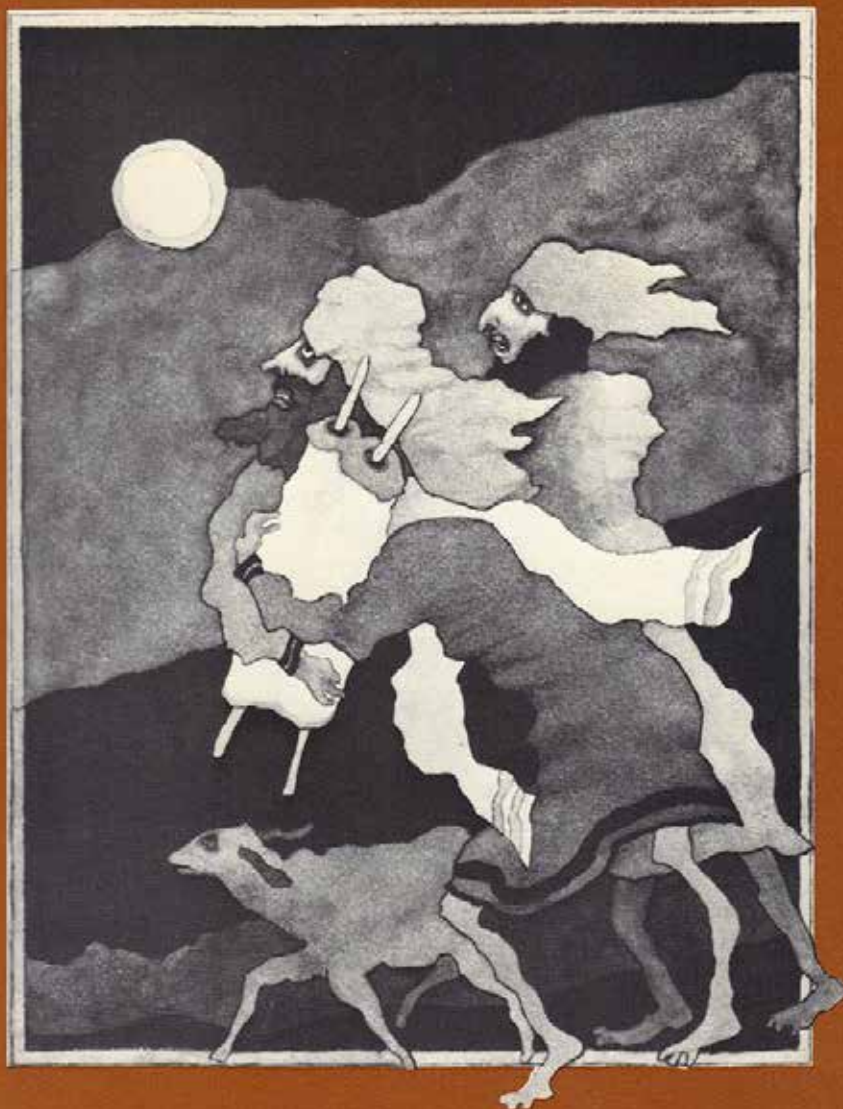


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**Children of Isaac and Ishmael:  
Watercolors of Tunisia and Sketches for a Haggadah**

Elias Friedensohn Magnes Museum, Berkeley • August 30–November 1, 1981



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Recent watercolors of Tunisia and sketches for a new Haggadah by Elias Friedensohn are featured in a major exhibit at the Magnes Museum. A master of watercolor technique, Friedensohn uses rich, subtle coloration to enhance his whimsical and grotesque compositions.

Friedensohn's recent travels in Tunisia inspired his imaginative caricatures of the people he observed there. The exotic and the mundane, ancient and modern, joy and disgust are combined in the half-humorous, half-sinister paintings.

The same emotional complexity characterizes Friedensohn's extraordinary illustrations for a Haggadah. The Passover Haggadah stands as the only book of Jewish ritual that is regularly illustrated. Each generation of Jews produces Haggadot relevant to its time and place. Over 2,000 editions bear witness to the wealth of artistic creation inspired by the story of Exodus—a magical, nearly mythical chapter in the history of the Jewish people. Elias Friedensohn has written:

"There is, in the Haggadah, a wealth of fierce Biblical material which seems to be either ignored or dealt with obliquely... as though to spare everyone's sensibilities...."

"It occurred to me then that it might be a truly interesting endeavor to design a fierce Haggadah... fierce both in the depiction of evils, and by contrast, fierce also in the quality of jubilation. To make a Haggadah that would truly spur the imagination and the feelings of both the child and the adult about the Passover and its meaning. Wit would be its leavening."

Reception for the Artist • Sunday, August 30 • 2pm to 5pm

The Judah L. Magnes Museum is located at 2911 Russell Street, Berkeley. To reach the Museum go one block north from Ashby on Pine, between College and Claremont. The Museum is open Sunday thru Friday, 10 am to 4 pm.