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Camille Davidson, *Gevurah/Strength*, 20x20, 2016

Statement

Reaching 61 this year, I am beginning my journey into older age. I am letting go and embracing, reaching up and digging deeper, expecting less and wanting more. I am walking and gathering, questioning and answering, challenging and reassuring, complicating and simplifying all at the same time. This new body of work is about spiritual shifting. I am interested in how we shift from secular space to holy space. I turned to my spiritual teachers for direction, the Jewish mystics both ancient and modern. Jewish mysticism, known as Kabbalah is concerned with spiritual awareness and connections between the divine and human realms. I have asked the painter and god wrestler inside of me to listen, do battle, to hold back, to step into the breach and be in the moment. These 4 images are from a series called “The 10 Sefirot”, imagery based Kabbalistic concepts of connecting and shifting our human psyche towards the divine.

I spend a lot of time receiving information. I find as I get older and move into a more contemplative state of being than I look around me in quiet repose, creating awareness first in my mind, body and soul, process those connections and then respond with my palette. I am moved by my natural surroundings through my spiritual lens and practice. I am a Judaic studies teacher as well as a painter and my Jewish world seeps into and often informs my painting and visa versa.

Bio

I live in the small quiet town of Readfield Maine with my husband of 42 years and our tiny dog Aurora. We are surrounded by beautiful woods and a nearby lake. My 4 children are grown and scattered over the world and this year I became grandmother to a little boy named Dolev.

I graduated from MECA in 1986 and have been painting, nurturing children and teaching ever since. I recently had a large solo show at The Maine Jewish Museum where I installed a show uniquely created for the building and space based in ‘landscape’ both external and internal and Jewish Mystical concepts. I will be presented my work in June 2017 at The Maine Jewish Conference.