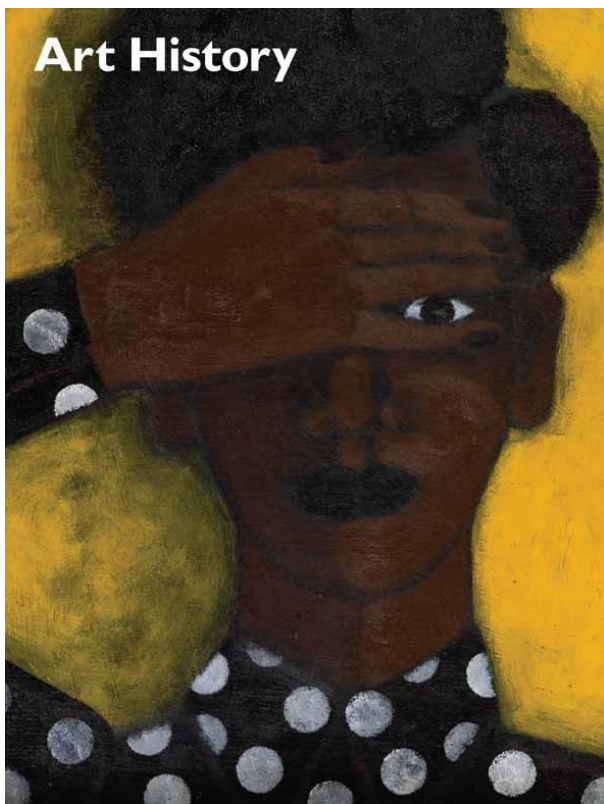


PARSHAT NOACH
4 CHESHVAN 5781/22 OCTOBER 2020



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THE CALL OF THE OTHER

1. “Your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.” (Genesis 4:10)
2. “...” (Genesis 6:9-9:24)
3. “Come, let us make bricks...” (Genesis 11:3)
Ruthlessly, they made life bitter for them with harsh labor at mortar and with bricks...
(Exodus 1:14)
4. “Come, let us build a city, and a tower with its top in the sky, to make a name for ourselves;
else we shall be scattered all over the world.” (Genesis 11:4)

5. The very purpose of Creation was that all would be compelled to ask, “Who created all these?” – that all would know clearly that a supreme force, in its goodness, is sovereign of the world, and none would make a claim to autonomous power. To that end, God planted in each entity some lack, a fissure in its being, making them all incomplete. But Creation soon got used to that too – it ceased to notice its own deficiency; it didn’t know that it needed God. (Rabbi Ya’akov of Izbica-Radzyn)

6. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא נִפְשׁוֹת רַבּוֹת וְחֹסְרוֹן עַל כָּל מָה שֶׁבְּרָאתָ לְהַחְיֹת
בָּהֶם נֶפֶשׁ כָּל חַי בְּרוּךְ חַי הָעוֹלָמִים
Baruch atah ado-nai elo-hai-nu melech haolam borei nefashot rabot v’chesronan al kol
ma she’barata l’hachayot bahem nefesh kol chai baruch chei ha’olamim.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, Creator of numerous living beings and their needs, for all the things You have created with which to sustain the soul of every living being. Blessed is the One who is the Life of the worlds.

7. אַחֲרַי – an other

אַחֲרָאִי – that which is gone back to; a substitute (Aramaic)

אַחֲרִיּוֹת – a surety (Aramaic)

אַחֲרִיּוֹת – responsibility

אַחֲרַי – behind

8. When Abraham looked up, his eye fell upon a ram behind (אַחֲרַי)... (Genesis 22:13)

9. Moses said, “Oh, let me behold Your Presence!” And God answered, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim before you the name יהוה, and the grace that I grant and the compassion that I show. But you cannot see My face...I will put you in a cleft of the rock and shield you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you will see My back (אַחֲרַי)....” (Exodus 33:18-23)

10. I approach the infinite insofar as I forget myself for my neighbor who looks at me....A you is inserted between the I and the absolute He. (Emmanuel Levinas)