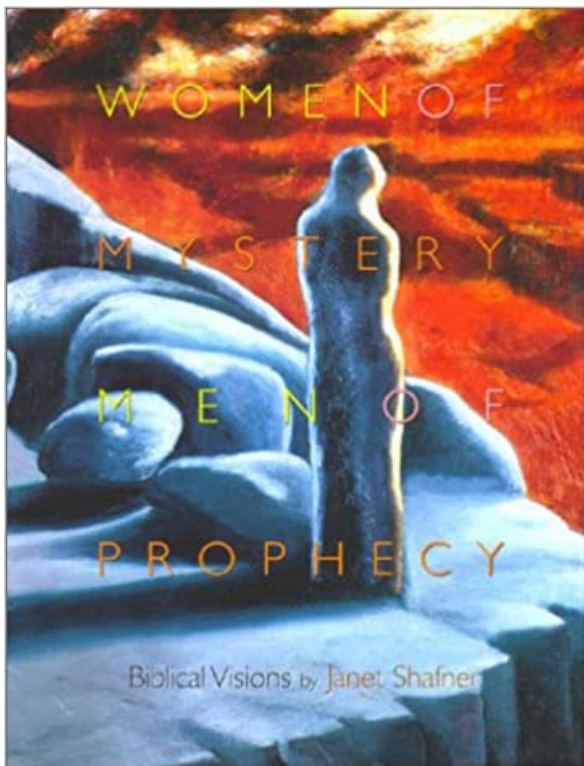

Biblical Visions: Women of Mystery, Men of Prophecy

Hardcover – December 1, 2002

by Janet Shafner

Who are the mysterious women of the Bible who left us such important life messages? What was their wisdom and where did it come from? What are the messages for us today that were given to Biblical prophets and the men who spoke with God?

In this book, the contemporary American artist Janet Shafner, interprets events in the dramatic lives of our biblical foremothers and forefathers in a series of powerful oil paintings. She writes: "Everything that touches us deeply today has a parallel occurrence in the Bible - family jealousy, sexual obsession, enduring love and sacrifice, murder, rape, incest, man's inhumanity to his fellow, even ethnic cleansing - it is all there".



For all readers seeking to explore the deeper levels of meaning in these ancient texts through the unique medium of painting and the textual explication of Midrash, this book is a fascinating journey. We discover the real reason that Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt, the story of the unnamed sister/brides of Cain and Abel, a fatal error of judgement that led to centuries of evil for the Jewish people, the convert whose daring made possible the royal family of Israel and the future Messiah. These and many other fascinating mysteries are revealed in a series of vivid, multi-paneled, shaped canvases.

editors' picks



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Review

Her images echo dark and light human experience, the soul, the Divine gifts to God's ultimate creation. -- Ori Soltes, Georgetown University Art and Theology

With Shafner's Biblical characters, crusted salt cracks, the veil falls away, a live woman emerges and becomes real. -- Rabbi Jill Hammer, essay

About the Author

Janet Shafner attended Barnard College, Connecticut College and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. She lives and paints in New London, Connecticut. Her work has been shown in numerous group and solo exhibitions regionally and nationally, including Purdue University Gallery IN; The Housatonic Museum of Art, Cummings Art Center, Slater Museum, Lyman Allyn Art Museum, William Benton Museum, CT; The Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield, MA; Westmoreland County Museum of Art, PA and the Yeshiva University Museum, NY. She was a Yaddo Fellow and a fellow of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. Her work is held in many private and public collections. For thirty years, as the Director of the Adult Studio Art Program at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London, she taught hundreds of students.

Since 1988, she has been working on a series of biblically inspired oil paintings, trying to relate the biblical texts to contemporary issues. In her words, " it is the longest running set of paintings on a common theme that I have done, and I find it still a rich and endless mine of inspiration and learning."