

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Wendy Linden
Chief Marketing Officer
Hebrew College
wlinden@hebrewcollege.edu

**Hope Through the Power of Art
Hebrew College Winter Art Exhibit Showcases Hope Diary Covers for
Israeli Teens**

NEWTON, MA, January 9, 2024 — Hebrew College invites the community to the opening of its winter art exhibit, *The Hope Diaries: A Collaborative Art Project*, on January 28, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Hebrew College's Mascott Beit Midrash. Conceptualized by local Boston artist Shirah Rubin, the exhibit showcases work from 50 fifth through eighth graders from Jewish day and religious schools across Boston.

Rubin guided students from [Jewish Community Day School of Boston](#), [Solomon Shechter of Boston](#), [Temple Beth Zion](#), and [Metrowest Community Day School](#) through a collaborative art-making process. Inspired by the prompt, “What does hope look like for you?”, the Boston students assembled collage covers for diaries which were distributed to students at [Yad B’Yad](#) (“Hand in Hand”) school in Haifa, where Arab-Israeli and Jewish-Israeli youth learn together “hand-in-hand”. Across six campuses, Yad B’Yad is committed to building inclusion and equality between Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel through a growing network of bilingual, integrated schools and communities.

“The purpose of the Hope Diaries project is to offer Jewish- and Arab-Israeli students an avenue of hope through the power of art,” says Deborah Feinstein, exhibit curator and chair of [Hebrew College Arts Initiative](#). Collage, the chosen medium, celebrates the gathering and cohering of disparate visual elements into harmonious composition. Developing this theme further, Rubin centered collaboration in the process. Students began the collage covers before swapping works with partners in their group, engaging in a creative exchange that prompted them to adapt and connect visually with their partner's creations.

“I wanted the group to experience what it was like to look at and relate to it visually, highlighting or continuing a visual element and then receiving the cover back to continue a relational art practice. This was intended to reinforce ideas of how we encounter, listen, and respond to each other’s work,” Rubin says, reflecting on this co-creative process. And the collaboration will continue in Israel, where students can use the unlined diaries as a medium for their own creativity. “My hope is that young people in Israel can use these diaries to process, heal, and to imagine hope even during these dark times.”

The diaries were delivered to Israel in early January for distribution to Yad B’Yad students. Feinstein resonates with this next phase of the project: “These covers for Hope Diaries are offerings as ‘containers’ for each child’s expression and imagination during this most difficult time.”

Hope Diaries: A Collaborative Art Project runs January 18-February 29, with a celebratory opening on January 28 at 11 a.m. in [Hebrew College’s Mascott Beit Midrash](#), featuring remarks from Shirah Rubin and Hebrew College President Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld. [RSVP here](#) to the opening.