

GENESIS

GLASS ARK DOORS | TEMPLE BETH TIKVAH

LINDA CUMMINGS

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GENESIS: GLASS & LIGHT

PROJECT STATEMENT

The creation of the *Genesis* Glass Ark Doors for the renovation of Temple Beth Tikvah in Madison, CT was an opportunity to bring the congregation's wish to commission a monumental work of art to inspire, preserve and protect the sacred Torah to fruition. Through its aesthetic and material form, the Ark door design had to reflect both the spiritual needs and the deep sense of place that shaped the shoreline community.

As a photographer, my challenge was to create not just an inspirational image, but an experience of transcendence through the image. The substance of glass was chosen for its unique lens-like visual properties: transparency, opacity and trans-illumination capability. Utilizing the spectral phenomenon of light and various photographic techniques, I was able to open the light spilling over the surface of the ocean at sunrise into its prismatic components – the way an impressionistic painter would have done with a brush at the dawn of photography. Activating light and heat during the fabrication process fuses a photographic interlayer between planes of tempered glass to produce intricate detail and color that embody the spirit, vibrancy and formal elements in the original scene.

The Ark doors successfully provide both a physical and symbolic gateway into an experience in which aesthetic form combined with sacred rituals renew the human spirit. A personal connection is made through the interaction of tradition, community, voice, light, image, materiality and touch. When a human hand moves to open the large glass Ark door, the worshipper is bathed in light and leans into the Mystery. Sliding the glass Ark doors open reveals the Torah. The Word and worshippers are united in this process. Desire for connection and meaning are thus renewed and replenished within the totality of the experience.

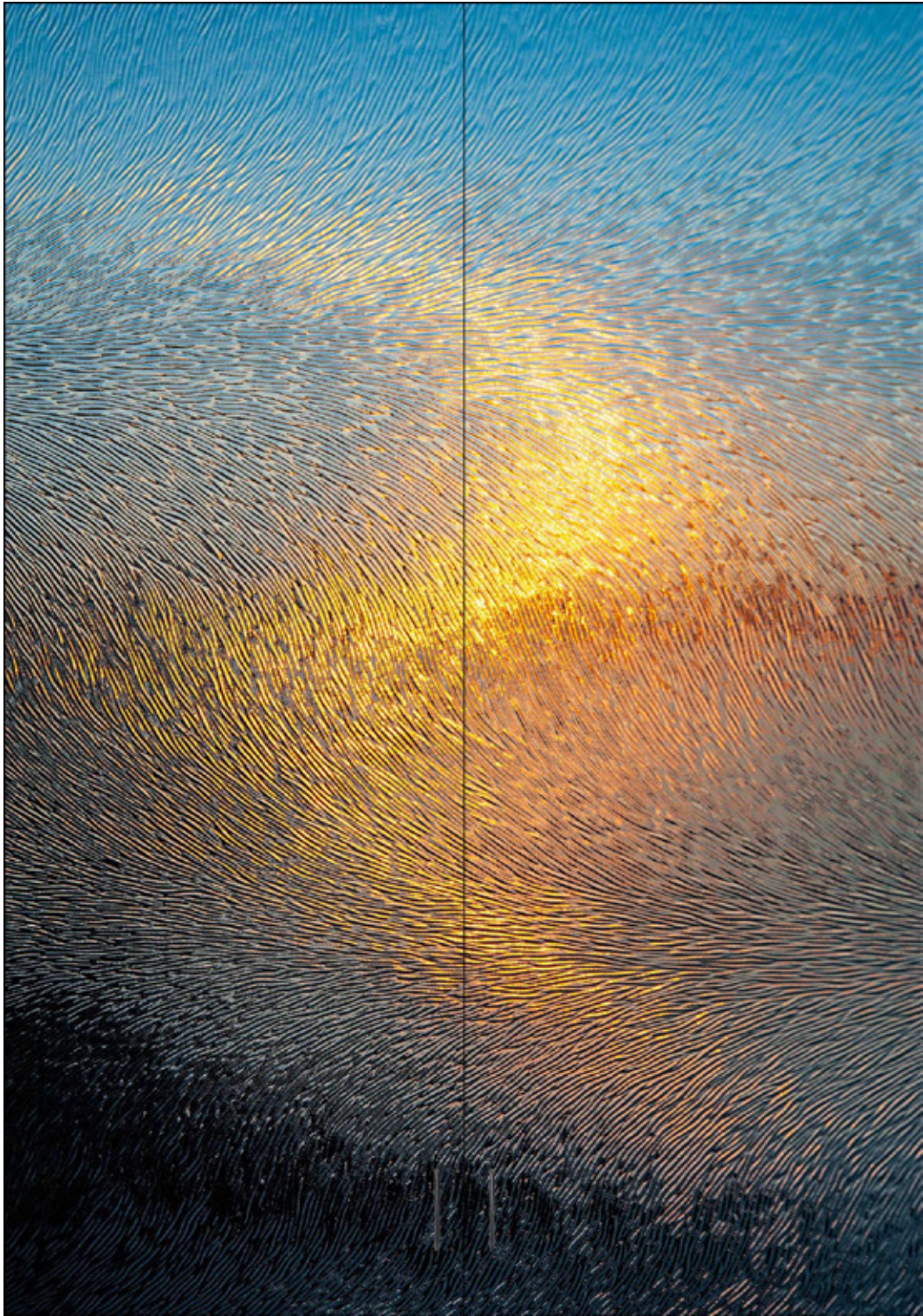
—Linda Cummings



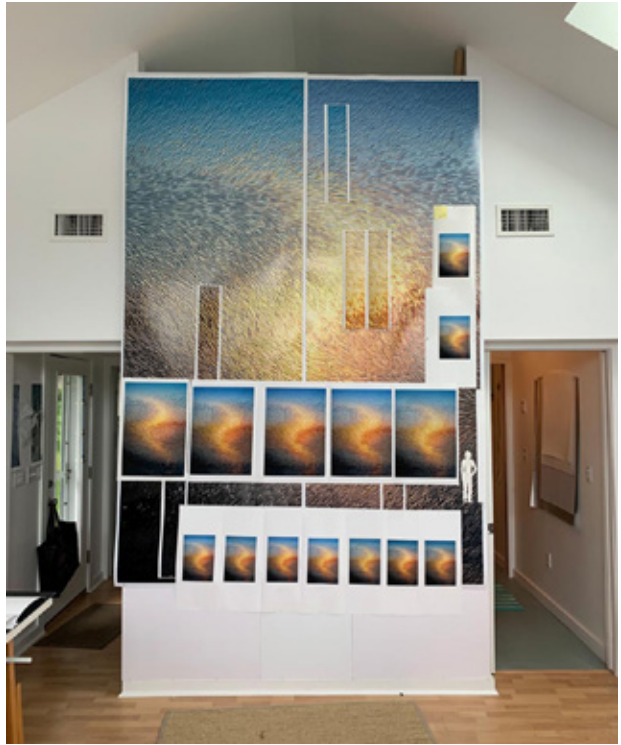


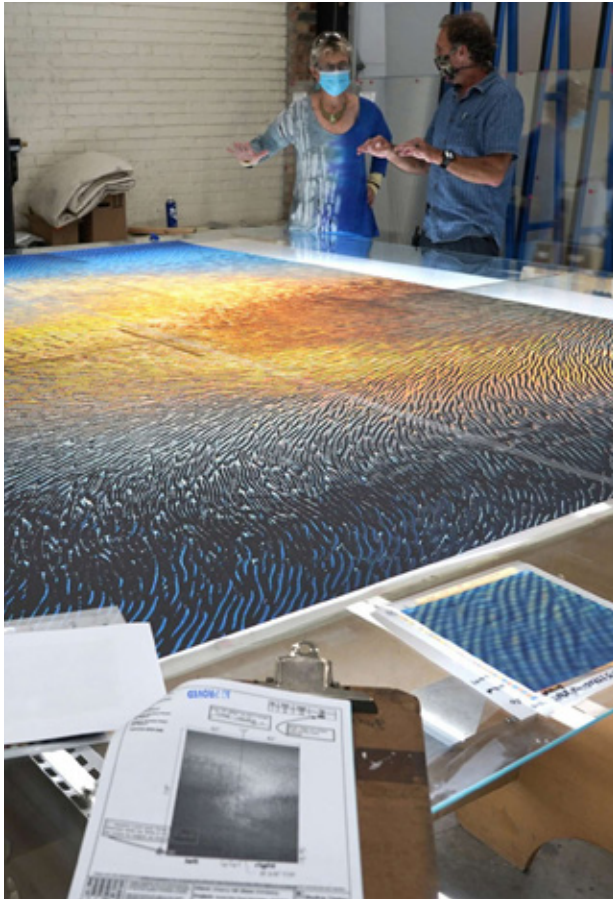
SELECTED IMAGES
& ILLUSTRATIONS

LINDA CUMMINGS STUDIO & PARTNERS













LINDA CUMMINGS is a pioneering fine art photographer with studios in New York City and Branford, CT. Recognized as a highly inventive and experimental artist, Cummings began her career as an industrial photographer for Mack Trucks in Allentown PA. Linda Cummings was born in Valley Forge Pennsylvania and studied art at the Cleveland Institute of Art, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and Rutgers University. Since 1996 she has taught at the International Center of Photography in New York City. Recent multi-media installations have expanded Cummings' interest in perception and light through creations of photo-based architectural projects in glass for private and public institutional partners including synagogues, hospitals and community centers.

TEMPLE BETH TIKVAH is a vibrant, inclusive Reform Jewish community, guided by Torah and interconnected through traditions and values of tikkun hanefesh (enriching our lives) and tikkun olam (improving the world). Located at 196 Durham Road, Madison, CT, 06443.