

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2021

Contact: Abby Schwartz

513.604.1011

aschwartz@huc.edu



**SKIRBALL MUSEUM
CINCINNATI**

A PORTRAIT OF JEWISH

CINCINNATI OPENS AT SKIRBALL

MUSEUM

New exhibition celebrates the Cincinnati Jewish Bicentennial

The Skirball Museum, located in Mayerson Hall on the historic Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion is pleased to announce the opening of *A Portrait of Jewish Cincinnati* in celebration of the Cincinnati Jewish Bicentennial on **Thursday, November 4 at 5:30 pm**. The exhibition will be open for viewing until 8 pm. Remarks by community representatives and descendants of some of the portrait subjects will be made at 6:15 pm in the Mayerson Hall Auditorium. Reservations are required for this event and all visitors to the Skirball must show proof of vaccination and wear masks while in the building. The remarks portion of the evening will also be livestreamed at <https://livestream.com/huc/cincyportraits> and at <https://www.facebook.com/Jewishcincy200>.

A Portrait of Jewish Cincinnati brings together the likenesses of many of Cincinnati's prominent Jewish citizens from the early 19th century to the present day, gleaned from the museum's own rich collections as well as those of local and national museums and private collections. Portraits include oil paintings, sculptures, drawings, and mixed media representations of figures who have made a significant impact on Jewish Cincinnati and the larger secular community. Augmenting the portraits are several decorative arts objects, including a tall clock made by Joseph Jonas, Cincinnati's first permanent Jewish settler, who was a jeweler and watch and clock manufacturer; a silk fan made by Jewish American artist Henry Mosler dedicated to Rosa Fechheimer Sachs; and a cameo and eyeglasses that belonged to Marcus Fechheimer, co-founder of the Fechheimer Brothers Company, whose portrait appears in the exhibition.

"Bringing together almost 40 works of art in celebration of 200 years of Jewish life in Cincinnati has been an incredible journey of discovery and learning for the Skirball Museum staff," comments Skirball director Abby S. Schwartz. "From Fanny and Abraham Aub, the couple who gave the land to build the second home of Cincinnati's Jewish Hospital—the first in the country—to Sally Priesand, the first woman ordained a rabbi in America, here at HUC in Cincinnati—to so many scions of philanthropy, civic service, industry, education, and culture who made their mark on our community, the stories told by these portraits are colorful and diverse, and will engage viewers of all backgrounds and will be a source of pride for all Cincinnatians."

Among the portraits are works by some of Cincinnati's most important 19th century painters, including John Aubery, Raphael Strauss, and Henry Mosler. Portrait busts by Sir Jacob Epstein and Moses Jacob Ezekiel are also featured in the exhibition.

In conjunction with the exhibition, director Abby Schwartz will offer a slide talk on Tuesday, **December 14, 1—2:30 pm** in the Mayerson Hall Auditorium. The talk will be followed by an opportunity to visit the exhibition. The program will be offered live and over Zoom.

Reservations are required for the **November 4** opening and the **December 14** program. To register or for additional information contact the Cincinnati Skirball Museum at 513.487.3231 or email awheeler@huc.edu, or visit our website at <http://csm.huc.edu>.

November 14 Opening Reception registration link: <http://huc.edu/opening-portrait-jewish-cincinnati-skirball-museum>

Photo credits:

Marcus Fechheimer, 1881, John Aubery, oil on canvas, Cincinnati Skirball Museum purchase, Lucas Museum Fund, 2015

Fannie Aub and Abraham Aub, ca. 1860, artist unknown, oil on canvas, collection of Professors A.E. Ted Aub and Phillia C. Yi

Tall Clock (detail), Joseph Jonas, ca. 1825, Cincinnati, Private Collection

###

About the Jewish Cincinnati Bicentennial

2021 marks the 200th anniversary of Jewish community life in the city of Cincinnati, which formally began with the founding of Chestnut Street Cemetery in Cincinnati's West End in 1821. The Jewish community and the City of Cincinnati will commemorate this significant milestone through community celebrations, multi-generational programs and interactive experiences.

About the Cincinnati Skirball Museum

*The Cincinnati Skirball Museum, founded in 1913 as the Union Museum with the assistance of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, was the first formally established Jewish museum in the United States. Its core exhibition, **An Eternal People: The Jewish Experience**, as well as temporary exhibitions, portray the cultural, historical, and religious heritage of the Jewish people. In 2015, B'nai B'rith International and HUC-JIR announces the transfer of the art and artifacts of the former B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum, for the purposes of preserving and displaying this distinctive collection of sacred and secular fine and decorative arts. The B'nai*

B'rith Klutznick Collection augments and enhances the Skirball's holdings significantly, rendering it among the most prominent Jewish museums between the Alleghenies and the Rockies.



PRESENTING SPONSORS



SPONSORS



Dick Weiland



FOUNDING PARTNERS



CO-CHAIRS

Kim Heiman

Tamara Harkavy

jewishcincy200.org