

# ELLEN FRANK ILLUMINATION ARTS FOUNDATION, Inc.



*Dedicated to the transformative power  
of art to build a culture of understanding.*

## CURRENT PROJECTS

### CITIES OF PEACE

CITIES OF PEACE honors the history and culture of world cities that have experienced major conflict and trauma, including Baghdad, Kabul, Jerusalem, Beijing, Hiroshima, New York, and Lhasa. Transforming anguish into beauty, the gold-leaf painting series emphasizes understanding as prerequisite to peace and celebrates the best of the human spirit. CITIES OF PEACE pays homage to traditional illuminated manuscript painting, but in paintings of much larger scale and broader context, unique in the contemporary art world.

Evoking artistic traditions as diverse as illuminated manuscripts, icons, tapestries, embroidery, architectural mosaics, woodcarvings, and metalwork, CITIES OF PEACE uses mica, bronze powders, and many types of gold leaf to create multilayered imagery that shimmers and resolves itself into successive scenes of time, place, and humankind. Crimson leaf, the color of our blood, is tucked into each painting to honor the dead. Text, in the tradition of *micrography* (words shaped into images), appears in some of the works. The arts of each country portrayed are incorporated into the paintings.

Principles that emerged from meetings with cofounders of the Dalai Lama's "Active Peace" project affirm the CITIES OF PEACE' philosophy: the paintings embrace hope for peace in styles that are neither angry nor polemical.

CITIES OF PEACE was produced at the Illumination Atelier of Ellen Frank Illumination Arts Foundation, Inc. by interns from China, Korea, Colombia, Estonia, Japan, Poland, and the United States under the artistic direction of Ellen Frank. It was premiered at the Laurie M. Tisch Gallery of JCC Manhattan 2005-2006, where than 3,000 visitors passed through the Tisch lobby level gallery daily.

Works devoted to Monrovia, Sarajevo, Hanoi, Dresden, Beirut, Seoul, Warsaw, and other cities continue the project. Guest artists and interns participate in research, concept, design, and execution of these works, which will tour nationally and internationally, accompanied by symposia and workshops.