
Kaddish and Other Work

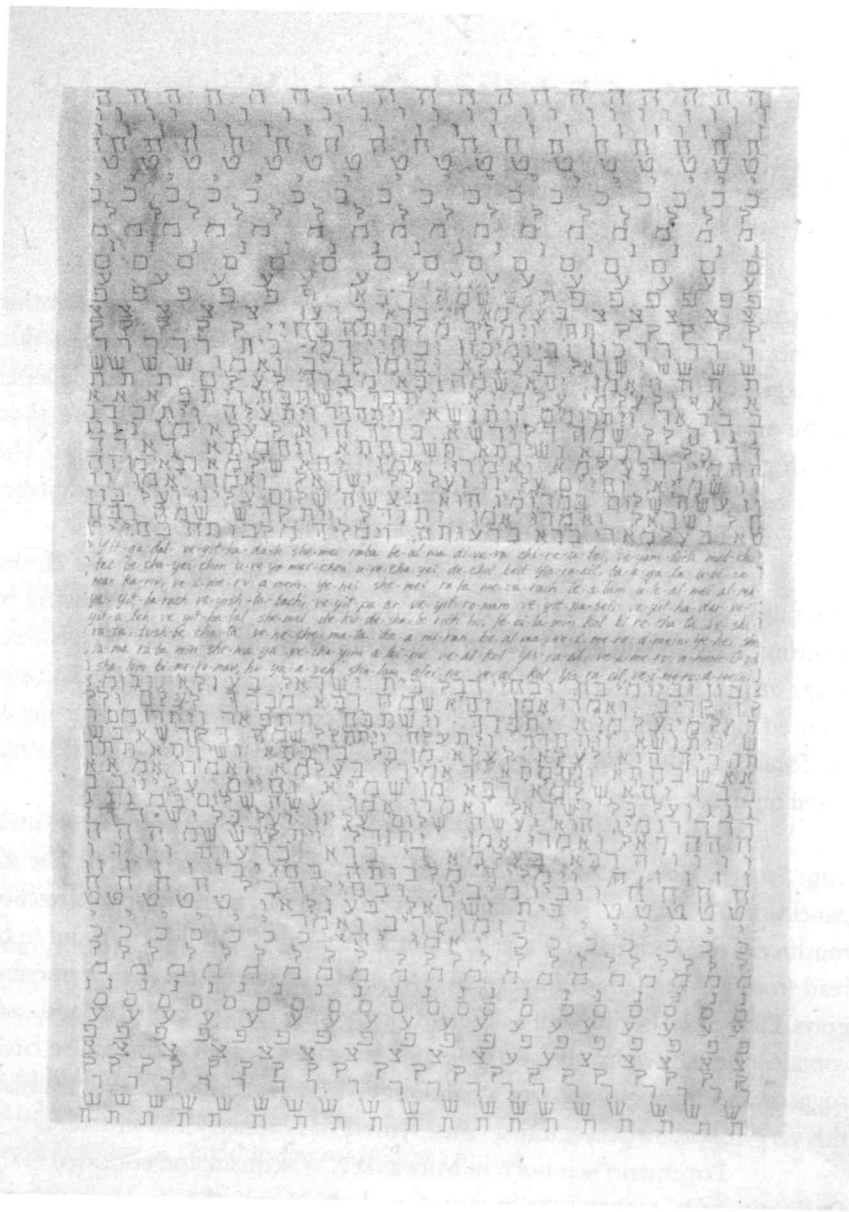
Jane Logemann

Manhattan artist Jane Logemann has been working with abstract painting and modular units since the mid-1960s. In the 1980s she became interested in language as a visual image. Several sequences involve repeating a single letter in the alphabet or a single word across and down the canvas, and then covering and layering them with delicate transparent washes of color. The result has a mesmerizing effect, reminiscent of concrete poetry, that pushes past literal meanings to a "visual understanding of knowing."

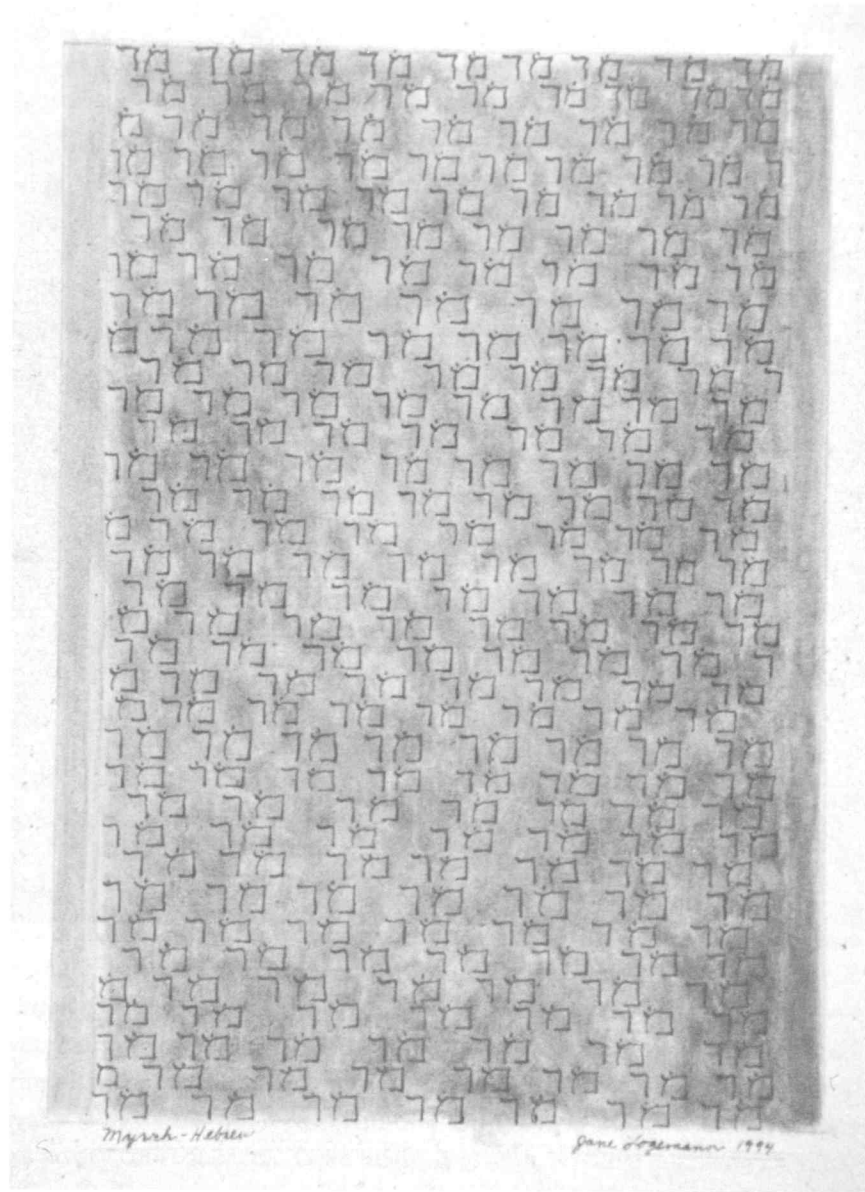
"For many years, I used simple linear elements such as circles or straight lines in a repetitive manner to produce an abstract drawing or painting," says Logemann. "I began to see languages the same way, as abstract linear forms. When my son was preparing for his bar mitzvah in the late 80s, I sensed similar forms of repetition in the discipline, and the in chanting of his Torah portion. This inspired the creation of several one-of-a-kind books based on the Hebrew Alphabet."

Logemann's language work incorporates characters and symbols from French, Hebrew, Arabic, Japanese, Korean, and Russian cultures. The 10-panel work, "Kaddish" (1995), was done in oil, with pen and ink, on unstretched muslin canvas. Each panel is a 31 by 22-inch rectangle. "Kaddish" is meant to be read from right to left, shifting from light shades of tan to gradually darkening grays. Each panel begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and each contains the entire alphabet with the prayer written within a circle. The circle suggests an ongoing process or a continuity. "I knew that I wanted to translate this very important prayer into a visual symbol of symmetry and structure."

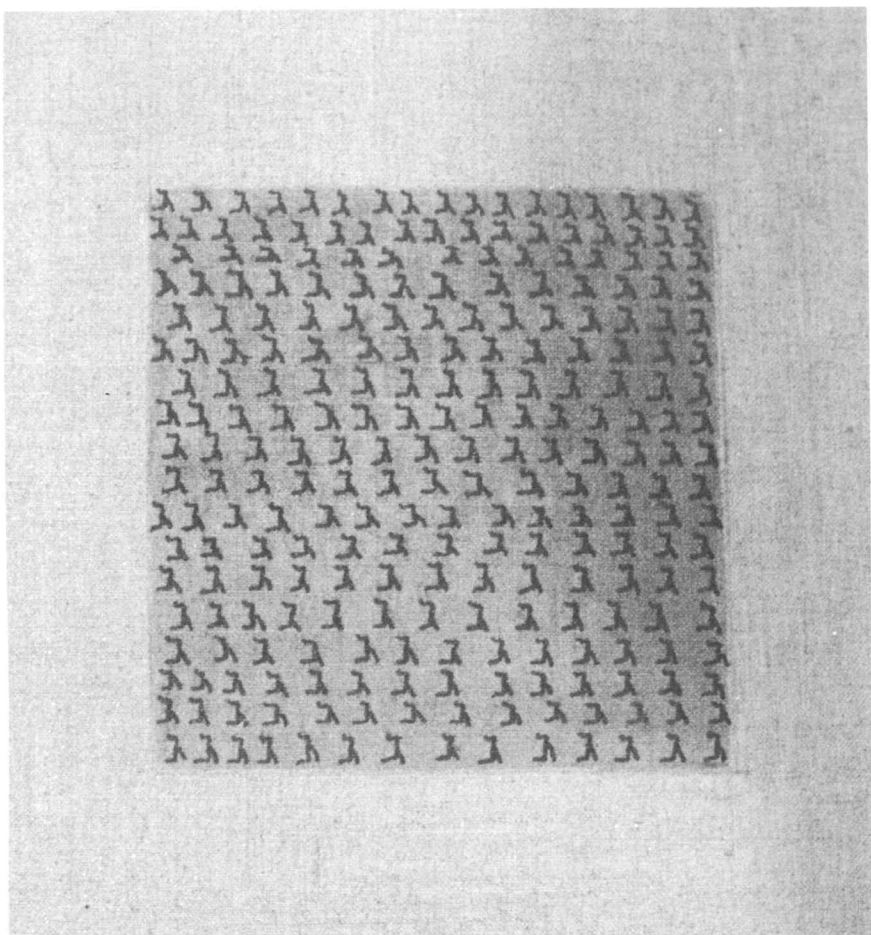
Logemann was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and educated at the University of Wisconsin; she lives and works in New York City. Her work can be found among public and private collections, including the Jewish Museum in New York, the Stanford University Museum, and the Yale University Art Collection.



Kaddish 5
Ink, oil and varnish on muslin. 31 x 22 inches.
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Myrrh-Hebrew
Ink, oil and varnish on muslin. 9.5 x 6.75 inches.
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from *A Hebrew Alphabet Book*
Ink and oil on linen. 7.5 x 6.5 inches.
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