

## Call to BIJOCSM Visual Artists to Illustrate Rimonim Liturgy Book

I am looking for nine artists who are Black, Indigenous, Mizrahi, Sephardi or other Jews of Color to each create a single full page, full color illustration/illumination for my forthcoming collection of radical Jewish liturgical writing.

Each artist will receive \$500 for non-exclusive rights to publish the artwork in a book and possibly an associated calendar, and a free copy of the book. If I select one of the chosen pieces to be used as the cover, the artist will receive an additional \$500.

Illustrations do not need to be tied to specific poems, though they can be, but must reflect/illuminate the overall tone and content of the writing—radical, contemporary liturgical poetry drawing from traditional sacred texts, but independent of them, merging the political and spiritual visions of progressive Jews and centering BIJOCSM Jews and global Jewish cultures.

Art can be in any style, and can include text from the poems or other relevant text in any language. I am looking for work that in some way references traditional Jewish manuscript illuminations without being bound by them in any way, and each piece must have a pomegranate somewhere in it. If people are portrayed, they must reflect the true diversity of Jews in some way: race/ethnicity/culture/gender/sexuality, body sizes and shapes, disability, age. I welcome art that also draws on and incorporates non-Jewish cultural roots of BIJOCSM Jews.

Many historic Jewish illustrations incorporate the shapes of houses, the temple, the ark, or Torah scrolls as a structure. Many have plants and animals. In spite of the commandment against idolatry, many have people and angels in them. Here is an example from my brother Ricardo's art of a contemporary image that references Renaissance Christian art about celestial spheres, followed by a few examples of historical Jewish illustrations.



Just as my poetry draws from and breaks with traditional sacred text, I am looking for art that both acknowledges and transforms tradition, so please don't take these examples as instructions or constraints.



Aurora Levins Morales [aurora@historica.us](mailto:aurora@historica.us)

Apply by submitting work samples, a statement about why you're interested, information about your identity to help me create some balance, and any ideas that come to mind.

Samples from the Rimonim Liturgy Project will soon be online at <https://www.rimonim-liturgy.org/> . Accepted artists will receive additional texts to work with.