

# ELLEN BENJOYA SKOTHEIM

**A Personal Odyssey from Maimonides to Benjoya** and the artist book **Izmir** combine contemporary art and family textiles from the Ottoman Empire with Sephardic history. Benjoya's work examines her family, Sephardic Jews who left Spain after the Spanish Expulsion in 1492 and migrated to the Ottoman Empire where they remained until the beginning of World War I. Then they emigrated to Cuba, South America and the United States. Using a personal Len's these works focus on a 500-year period of history.

Ellen Benjoya Skotheim studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and received a B.A. in Landscape Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley, as well as an M.A. in urban Planning from Antioch College in San Francisco. She has studied watercolor painting with Howardina Pindell, printmaking with Anthony Peter Gorny, and papermaking with Karen Stahlecker. Her work has been shown at the Center for Jewish History in New York City. Solo exhibits of her work include The American Turkish Association, Los Angeles, 2001, The American Turkish Association, Palo Alto, 2002, the Norwegian Seaman's Church Gallery, New York, 1995, the Norwegian Trade Council, New York, 1996, and the Norwegian Seaman's Church Gallery in San Pedro, 1997

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