

ELLEN FRANK ILLUMINATION ARTS FOUNDATION, Inc.



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

THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ellen Frank, who conceived EFIAF and its major works as well as the ILLUMINATION ATELIER, has a record of achievement uniquely suited to the multi-faceted program of arts production and teaching. A scholar of distinction, she studied art history and connoisseurship at Yale, the Courtauld and Warburg Institutes, and has an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in English Literature and the Visual Arts from Stanford University. Her many awards in painting, book design and scholarship include a Fulbright Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts grant, Ford Foundation fellowship, Pollack-Krasner Award in Painting, and a New York Foundation for the Arts grant. Her first book, *Literary Architecture: Essays Toward a Tradition* (University of California Press) won The New York Institute for Graphic Arts 50 Best Books, the Ronce & Coffin Club Design Award, and “Best of All Award Winning Books” by Book Builders West. For the 50th Anniversary of The Association of American University Presses, the University of California Press chose *Literary Architecture* “as their single book to represent the highest standards of design and production.” Frank’s depth of understanding and scholarly expertise in the fields of aesthetic theory, art and architectural history, can be felt in all of her work and in the richness and beauty of the art itself.

For the past two decades, Ms. Frank has been creating and exhibiting her illuminated manuscripts, works on linen and panels, murals and scrolls that incorporate 22-karat gold leaf and other precious metals. Her careers as painter, writer and scholar and her interests in philosophical and historical themes have been woven into many beautifully illuminated paintings and series of paintings. Frank’s work has appeared in about fifty solo and group exhibitions across the United States.

Dr. Frank is also a gifted and imaginative teacher and lecturer. She started her professional life as Assistant Professor of English Literature and the Visual Arts at the University of California, Berkeley, and has continued to teach as guest artist since, at Barnard College, Rutgers University, School of Visual Arts, in her studio and in presentations at museums and galleries. Dr. Frank’s personal and intellectual charisma enriches and enlivens EFIAF’s public education programs as does her work with students and fellow artists in the ILLUMINATION ATELIER.

Frank’s work, including the preliminary paintings HANUKKAH ILLUMINATED, THE ILLUMINATED KING ARTHUR and CITIES OF PEACE, receives praise from critics, writers and collectors:

“Frank’s work is emphatically contemporary; it pits the ephemerality of life against the still moment of art while affirming the value of both” (The Los Angeles Times)

“The amazed delight this project is bound to elicit ensures that Hanukkah Illuminated will last as long as the best examples of any great civilization can endure” (Marshall Yeager, Anchor-International Foundation)

“The ambitious paintings of Ellen Frank have strong philosophical roots. This positions them, both perceptually and intellectually, among the most valid contemporary investigations in art.” (The New York Times)