A GLAMorous Collaboration: An Installation of Magnificent Early Renaissance Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts

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Description: This paper will examine a recent and ongoing collaboration between the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In a newly curated installation of two magnificent, early Renaissance Hebrew illuminated manuscripts, the collaboration of library and art museum and respective scholarship will tell the story of cross-cultural exchange through the art of the book and provide the public with the opportunity to view two of the world’s most lavish works in one case. In understanding the two institutions’ mutually beneficial relationship over the last several decades, it will highlight and support the trend for creative collaborations within the G.L.A.M. community of galleries, libraries, archives and museums.

Abigail Meyer is responsible for the scholarship, research, acquisitions, expansion and programming of the Met's Judaica collection, drawing greater attention to objects and art relating to Jewish history, cultural heritage and experience. Previously the head of department of Ceremonial Objects and Fine Art at the leading boutique Judaica auction house in New York City, Abigail continues her work with rare Hebrew books and manuscripts. As a freelance curator and educator, she creates exhibitions, is involved in several art initiatives, crafts museum tours, and lectures on Jewish art history, material culture and decorative arts. Abigail also consults for museums, universities, research institutions and private collectors as an independent fine-arts professional.