

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*ish* & Rookwood Pottery present 'Cincinnati Menorah', a Symbol of Community and Connection, powered by the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, a Jewish Cincinnati Bicentennial legacy project.

CINCINNATI, OH - *ish*, a local community engagement organization centering Jew-ish arts and culture as a platform for connecting people across cultural divides, has teamed up with Rookwood Pottery and the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati to create a new Menorah that captures the essence of time and the importance of ritual in our daily lives. Powered by the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Menorah is a Jewish Cincinnati Bicentennial legacy project, celebrating 200 years of Jewish life and community building in the Queen City.

This project celebrates the intersection of art and industry, highlighting the rich heritage of Rookwood Pottery and Cincinnati's historic leadership in arts-based production. Jewish Federation of Cincinnati CEO Danielle V. Minson says it's a project that exemplifies the mission of the Bicentennial; to share and celebrate the significance and pride of Jewish life in Cincinnati. "The Jewish Cincinnati Bicentennial has been about weaving Jewish traditions and partnerships into the fabric of the city. We are excited to share this unique and beautiful menorah that combines the exceptional artistry of Rookwood with Cincinnati's enduring Jewish culture."

Designed by Maxwell Holden and modeled by Jen Watson, the 'Cincinnati Menorah' is an abstract take on the traditional menorah, a ritual candle holder traditionally used during the holiday of Hanukkah. The inflated, generous clay form offers a fun oscillating wave through two unusual separated components, each side different from the next, encouraging play and arrangement options. Not only is the pair different in form, but the menorah can accommodate both standard Hanukkah candles as well as typical dining candles, making it a versatile piece for any occasion.

Holden's artist statement for the Cincinnati Menorah speaks to the significance of ritual and the marking of time in our daily lives. "The menorah marks our experience of time in a very precise way: one complete moment each evening together. Ritual is a reminder to us to be aware and pay attention to the broader context we live in," he said. The menorah is a timeless piece that will accumulate the moments and memories of households in and beyond Cincinnati, serving as a legacy project for the Jewish Cincinnati Bicentennial to be utilized and appreciated by those of all different faiths, cultures, and lifestyle backgrounds.

The Cincinnati Menorah is now available for pre-sale only at [www.ishCincy.org](http://www.ishCincy.org). You can view a sample in person this weekend at the Israel @ 75 Festival in Summit Park between 2-7PM (sponsored by the Jewish Federation and Mayerson JCC). Don't miss the chance to own this beautiful and unique piece of art that celebrates Cincinnati's rich Jewish and arts heritage.

#### About *ish*

Based in Cincinnati, Ohio, *ish* is an independent community engagement organization fostering human connections through arts and Jewish culture. Founded in 2017, *ish* centers Jewish arts and cultural traditions as a platform for connecting artists with communities to create new experiences, inspire pride in Jewish and intersectional identity, and foster appreciation of Cincinnati history and Jewish peoplehood.

#### About Rookwood Pottery

Rookwood Pottery is a renowned producer of handcrafted ceramic pottery. Established in 1880, Rookwood has been creating timeless and beautiful pieces for over 140 years. Today, Rookwood Pottery continues to produce high-quality ceramics and pottery, with a commitment to excellence and craftsmanship.

The Jewish Cincinnati Bicentennial is a community-wide celebration of the 200th anniversary of Cincinnati's founding that took place in 1788. This celebration honors the contributions of Jewish Cincinnatians to the city's growth and development over the past two centuries. Through a series of events and initiatives, the Jewish Cincinnati Bicentennial seeks to engage the community in reflecting on

the past, celebrating the present, and building towards the future of Jewish life in Cincinnati. The Jewish Cincinnati Bicentennial is presented by the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati.

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