

Sara Mann

Wilets, California

Prolific Sara Mann never repeats a project and turns out new designs by the score. Where does her inventiveness come from? She grew up in Israel without television, with little radio, and no store-bought toys. She learned to play.

The child of Sabras (Israeli pioneers), Sara Mann traces her family back on her mother's side to Russia and Romania and on her father's side to Turkey and Barcelona. Growing up in Israel among such relatives, Mann had no formal religious education; but in Israel the calendar, food, greetings—everything is Jewish. Later, living in California, Mann began to express her love for the tradition through her art by drawing on the happiness of her innumerable memories.

Patterns that repeat and evolve rhythmically fascinate the artist. "When I discovered underglazes, I started flying. My passion is detailing layers of designs in color and sgraffito [etching into leather-



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Seder Plate: "Microcosmos," by Sara Mann. Hand thrown, 17" diameter. Photo by Zohar Zaied. Designs around the plate include dragonflies and plants in metamorphosis, and 18 (chai) petals. The central star illustrates the prayerful concept, "As above, so below."



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Dual-sided Shabbat Vase and Candleholder, by Sara Mann. Hand-built, 17 x 15 x 4". Inscription: "Shabbat Shalom" appears on both sides. Photo by Zohar Zaied.