

CITIES OF PEACE ILLUMINATED

Ellen Frank Illumination Arts Foundation, Inc.



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

Cities of Peace encourages us to acknowledge the grandeur of humankind's creative powers, and the triumph of hope over the forces of darkness and entropy.

Cities are the fount of civilization, the source of most of what is best in our world. Every effort must be made to encourage people to focus on that fundamental fact about cities, and to strive to preserve them and the values they embody.

Cities of Peace helps serve that high purpose.

Jeff Spurr, Fogg Museum
Aga Khan Program for Islamic
Architecture, Harvard University

Cities of Peace honors the history and culture of world cities that have experienced major conflict and trauma, including Lhasa, Jerusalem, Baghdad, Kabul, Beijing, Hiroshima, New York, Pristina, Sarajevo, Monrovia and Yerevan. Transforming anguish into beauty, the gold leaf painting series emphasizes understanding as prerequisite to peace. The work is neither violent nor polemic; rather, Cities of Peace encourages our action through hopeful energy by celebrating the best of the human spirit. Created with participation by artists, students and scholars from more than 25 countries

The paintings draw upon artistic traditions unique to each city honored, traditions as diverse as illuminated manuscripts, icons, tapestries, embroidery, architectural mosaics, woodcarvings and metalwork. Crimson leaf, the color of our blood, is tucked into each painting to honor the dead. Memorials to particular eras and locations, Cities of Peace pays homage to artistic, historic and literary traditions to combine art and social justice, and thereby seeks to promote global peace and understanding.