IN 1956, when Abram and Frances Pascher Kanof founded the Tobe Pascher Workshop for contemporary Judaica at The Jewish Museum in New York, the Jewish community was still striving to recover its vitality after the devastations of the Holocaust. Ceremonial objects of modern design were seen as a means of reviving interest in the performance of Jewish ritual. Today, the changing nature of Jewish identity has inspired ceremonial art that both embodies the personal relationship of the artist to Judaism and crosses the boundary from functional to conceptual, from ritual performance to contemporary art.

This talk examines these transformations over the 60 years from the establishment of the Pascher Workshop to the present. The objects discussed include major works from the NCMA’s Judaic Art Gallery, a number of which were made in the Pascher Workshop.

RECEPTION FOLLOWS THE LECTURE. NO RESPONSE REQUIRED.

Contributions toward the lecture endowment may be made to the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc., Kanof Lecture Fund.