

### **On the Same Page**

Hebrew letters have inspired my artwork time and again. They are a rich source. Now I return to Hebrew letters, but how can I make them relevant? I want to look outward now, at others with whom we share the planet. All my life, I've been searching. Now I feel I know myself, more or less, but I don't know my neighbors.

So I walk into a nearby mosque, sign up for Beginning Arabic, an adult education class. At my age, I don't expect to learn fast, to speak fluent Arabic, but to taste the language of Islam, *their* language.

I have a chart of Arabic letters. I've been thinking about coexistence, about brothers and sisters. This year in my studio, I've been copying the letters, juxtaposing their letters with ours, a *haa* with a *hey*, an *alif* with an *aleph*, a *laam* with a *lamed*. Like us, these letters share a legacy. I want to hear them speak together. What would they tell us, these letters, as they stand side by side on the same page?