

ARTIST'S NOTE

by *Daniel Nevins*

Religion and art have always been entwined in my imagination. From my earliest memories, they were linked in a way that I did not question. The impulse toward each was the same and the feeling I had while involved in each was of a profound remembering.

So being presented the opportunity to make these paintings for Amy Ehrlich's retelling of the Torah felt like a perfect fit. And it all began with the Word. I was familiar with most of these stories, but some were new to me and very surprising. (Balaam, the sorcerer, springs to mind.) The first six months of the two years it took to complete this project consisted of reading the text over and over and trying to embody these stories with paint and wood.

In every case it was a matter of getting to the essential nature of each scene, without distractions, to let the stories breathe on their own. I dreamt of them often.

With a Mighty Hand is my humble offering. I have done my best to live up to the task given me. It continues to feel like a homecoming, a circle completed. I am altered by the journey taken and it is my hope that the reader's imagination is stirred by these remarkable stories.



Illustration © 2013 by Daniel Nevins

Laura Rivas
Associate Director of Marketing, Publicity, and Events
(617) 588-4445 • laura.rivas@candlewick.com

Rachel Johnstone
Publicity Coordinator
(617) 588-4504 • rachel.johnstone@candlewick.com