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GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

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Jewish Museum

“Repetition and Difference”

To play up their theme of change through recurrence in this millennia-spanning showcase of Judaica and contemporary art, the curators Susan L. Braunstein and Jens Hoffmann rewrote their introductory text four times, in registers that range from cheery P.R. to artspeak. Forgoing any Platonic distinction between original and copy, the curators place dozens of fertility goddesses, ancient shekels, mezuzahs, and intricate floral ketubahs from Isfahan alongside similarly iterative contemporary projects. N. Dash and John Houck both create abstractions from repeated folds; Abraham Cruzvillegas paints hundreds of found papers of various sizes a unifying gold. One section combines twenty-eight skullcaps, from an intricate Ottoman version in red velvet to Cary Leibowitz’s “Stonewall Yarmulke,” in silks of pink, white, and blue. Some of the contemporary projects are underwhelming (Koo Jeong-a’s stacks of magnets), but on the whole the show succeeds, again and again. Through Aug. 9.