

Aithan Shapira  
Statement

“Man I love not. I love that which devours him.”  
—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *Night Flight*

My father, an Israeli immigrant, ran a factory where he cut the fabric for women’s coats. I frequented that factory for over 25 years. Today, I build off of the shapes created in and between the patterns of his blueprints, drawing, often by scissoring, with typical tools of his trade.

In our cynical Rube Goldberg<sup>i</sup>, we see things devouring other things, we devour ourselves, we devour each other. After the devouring, only the bones, the cores of things, remain; and their secrets can be revealed.

My current work compares Jewish and Aboriginal sacred symbologies from land.

In addition to Joseph Campbell’s writings and interviews on heroes, myths, and sacrifice, Hero of Alexandria’s Pneumatics is relevant. Written in 1 B.C, it is a manual of 78 inventions or magic tricks at a time when people particularly conflated the ideas of science and magic even moreso than today. In number 37, Hero describes a system that moved temple doors from underneath an altar using pulleys and evaporating water, thereby convincing society—through illusion—that he had summoned the gods.

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<sup>i</sup> A convoluted mechanism built to carry out a mundane task.