

Gematriart® – Chromatic Art of the Torah

On Motzei Shabbat 12th November 2022, our resident colour expert Simon Prais gave a fascinating presentation on the research project he has been working on for more than eight years, combining his spiritual, working, and creative interests. Using the correlation of lowest to highest gematria word values in the Torah text (3–1500) to the colour wave frequency range of the visible spectrum (468–798 THz), Simon has translated all 79,977 words of the Torah to its prescribed colour. Along the way, he discovered numerous intriguing and affirming coincidences, such as the gematria word values of the biblical Hebrew words for the primary colours red, yellow, green and blue, all fall in their respective colour hue regions.

“Such an extraordinary discovery. We are very fortunate to have heard about this work.”

Setting strict parameters for himself, including the *golden ratio*, Simon used the Gematriart colour data to create a large canvas which allows the viewer to perceive the whole of the Torah in a single glance. Repetitions, patterns, and blocks of colour and tonal variation invite the viewer to ponder which sedra, verse, or words are catching their attention.



Simon Prais, Gematriart event at Birmingham United Central Synagogue, 12 November 2022, against backdrop of his Gematriart 'Songs of Ascent' canvases

Alongside this mixture of scientific, mathematical, and linguistic exploration, Simon has created a series of beautiful artworks, which show popular stories, laws, and quotes in fresh and innovative ways using his Gematriart colour transformation. Colour communicates across people groups in ways other languages cannot.

With an introduction from Rabbi Hambling, skilful Q&A from Lee Benson, marvellous assistance from Sybil Prais, and a heartfelt vote of thanks from Rabbi Hambling this presentation was truly a collaborative effort which dazzled the senses.

Simon has presented his findings and artworks in his new book *On the Sixth Day God Created Colour*, which is available locally at Central Deli and online at www.gematriart.com where further aspects of Gematriart are also explained.

“Simon's presentation of his personal research into a unique and hitherto unexplored subject was a tour de force!”