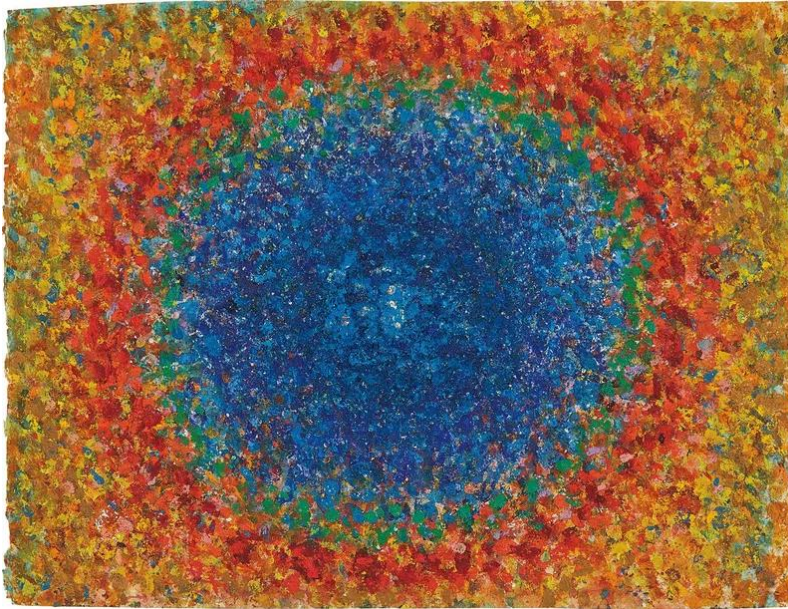


PARSHAT BEHA'ALOTECHA
NUMBERS 8:1-12:16
HAFTARAH ZECHARIAH 2:14-4:7
19 SIVAN 5783/08 JUNE 2023



Center of the World

Acrylic on paper by Richard Pousette-Dart

THE WORK OF HEROES

1. All the protagonists in the book of Numbers – even the rebels who complain and desire and hate – are of heroic stature. (Mei Ha-Shiloach)
2. There is no righteous person on earth who does not sin. (Ecclesiastes 7:20)

There is no righteous person on earth who, in doing good, does not sin. (Yosef Albo)

3. You formed my inmost being. You knot me together in my mother's womb....I am fearfully and wonderfully made....My soul knows that very well. (Psalm 139:13-14)
4. We arrive in this world undivided, integral, whole. But sooner or later, we erect a wall between our inner and outer lives, trying to protect what is within us or to deceive the people around us. Only when the pain of our dividedness becomes more than we can bear do most of us embark on an inner journey toward living "divided no more." (Parker Palmer, *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward An Undivided Life*)

There is in all things a hidden wholeness. (Thomas Merton)

5. We need to see how often we conspire in our own deformation: for every external power bent on twisting us out of shape, there is a potential collaborator within us. (Parker Palmer)

6. This is the first and wildest thing I know: that the soul exists and is built entirely out of attentiveness. (Mary Oliver, "Low Tide")