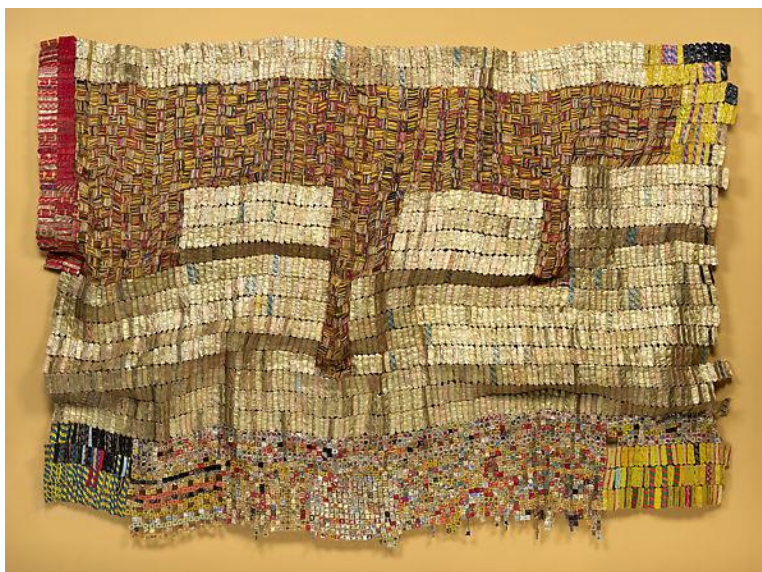


PARSHAT TERUMAH
2 ADAR 5782/3 FEBRUARY 2022
EXODUS 25:1-27:19



Between Earth and Heaven
Mixed media by El Anatsui

THE ARTIST AT WORK

1. Creation – one chapter
Mount Sinai – three chapters
Story of the exodus – eleven chapters
Construction of the Mishkan – thirteen chapters
2. “Let them make Me a sanctuary (מִקְדָּשׁ) that I may dwell (שָׁכַנְתִּי) among them. Exactly as I show you – the pattern of the Tabernacle (מִשְׁכַּן) and the pattern of all its vessels (כֵּלָיו) – so shall you make it.” (Exodus 25:8-9)

Let them make Me a house of holiness. (Rashi)

So that I may dwell in their midst (בְּתוֹכָם). (Siftei Chachmim)
3. Why are we here? “To make a home for God in the material world.” (Hasidic)
4. To make our world a “home” for God, we must recast the very foundations of its identity from a self-oriented entity into something that exists for a purpose that is greater than itself....The first step involves priming the material resource as a “vessel for Godliness [klei kodesh]”....Making ourselves “vessels” for Godliness is a greater feat than actually bringing Godliness into our lives. (Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson)

5. The defining feature of a Jewish public space is that it must be a safe one; safe not merely from harm, safe not merely from a Hobbesian definition of the state of nature as being a state of war of all against all, but safe in the sense that individuals who enter it know that their well-being is a concern of all who share in that space. A space is a safe one when all who inhabit it are “fellow keepers,” a space wherein the individuals recognize their responsibility to override their personal interests and not merely refrain from harming others but actually care for and respond to their needs. (Rabbi Donniel Hartman, LA Jewish Journal 02/07/13)