

PARSHAT TERUMAH
EXODUS 25:1-27:19
HAFTARAH I KINGS 5:26-6:13
6 ADAR 5784/15 FEBRUARY 2024



Torah
Pastel work by Norman Gorbaty

“...AND SO SHALL YOU MAKE IT”

1. Let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them. (Exodus 25:8)
2. ...so that I may dwell בְּתוֹכָם.

תָּנִיךְ – midst

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. Let *them* make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them...and so shall *you* make it. (Exodus 25:8-9)

Moses and his generation conceived of the sanctuary by their own light, their own vision. “And so shall you make it” means you shall make God’s sanctuary according to the visions of your own time and place. (Hasidic)

6. “From the day that I brought the people of Israel out of Egypt to this day I have not dwelt (*yashavti* - to sit, remain, dwell) in a house, but have moved about (*mithaleich* - to walk, move about) in tent (*ohel*) and *mishkan*. (II Samuel 7:6)
7. Our growing need of truth is no longer satisfied with Form and Color as they have been understood hitherto. The gesture we would reproduce on canvass shall no longer be a fixed moment in universal dynamism. It shall simply be the dynamic sensation itself. Indeed. All things move, all things run, all things are rapidly changing. A profile is never motionless before our eyes, but is constantly appears and disappears. (Umberto Boccioni, *Technical Manifesto of Futurist Painting*)
8. It’s about movement. I am fascinated by the motion around us and often try to capture this in my work. There is movement in life as we “do” it. Everything moves. Images are constantly in motion. This movement combines with our differing perspectives of an image to create unique experiences that I artistically explore. It is the doing of the work that I am about. Somebody may buy and own a picture I’ve done, but only I own the doing. (Norman Gorbaty, interview, December 8, 2016)