

PARSHAT VAYAKHEL
EXODUS 35:1-38:30
HAFTARAH EZEKIEL 36:16-38
20 ADAR 5785/20 MARCH 2025



Room to Dream
Oil on linen by Emilia Nurmivaara

POETIC SPACE

1. וְכָל-חֲכָמִי-לֵב בְּכֶם יָבֹאוּ וַיַּעֲשׂוּ... אֶת-הַמִּשְׁכָּן
Let all among you who are skilled [literally, “wise of heart”] come and make the Mishkan.
(Exodus 35:10-11)

Everyone whose heart lifted him and everyone of generous spirit came bringing his offering
for the work of the Tent of Meeting (אֵהָל מוֹעֵד). (Exodus 35:21)
2. One whose heart is wise (חֲכָמִי-לֵב) receives instructions...” (Proverbs 10:8)

Wisdom (חֲכָמוֹת) has built her house (בֵּיתָהּ) /She has hewn her seven pillars/She has
prepared her feast/Mixed the wine/And also set her table (*shulchanah*). (Proverbs 9:1-2)
3. Say to the House of Israel (בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל)...I will give you a new heart (לֵב חָדָשׁ). (Ezekiel
36:22, 26; haftarah for Parshat Vayakhel)

4. If I were asked to name the chief benefit of the house, I should say: the house shelters day-dreaming, the house protects the dreamer, the house allows one to dream in peace. (Gaston Bachelard, *The Poetics of Space*)
5. Through my paintings I examine the value of physical objects in a home and the significance they have for our soul space and dreamscape....The childhood home gives us the first experience of a home and is the place where we first dream and bring our imagination to life....To breathe life to the portrayed interiors I use elements of reflections from glass surfaces that turn the paintings into a visual play. I want to create an illusion of a room and try solving the problem between figurative and abstract imagery in a physical space. The image is built as a collaboration between reality and fantasy. I find it visually interesting how the different reflections distort the reality and give the paintings a dreamlike imagery. The space becomes new. (Emilia Nurmivaara)
6. We always think of the imagination as the faculty that forms images. On the contrary, it deforms what we perceive; it is, above all, the faculty that frees us from immediate images and changes them. If there is no change, or unexpected fusion of images, there is no imagination; there is no imaginative act. If the image that is present does not make us think of one that is absent, if an image does not determine an abundance – an explosion – of unusual images, then there is no imagination...A stable and completely realized image clips the wings of the imagination...Thanks to the imaginary, imagination is essentially open and elusive. It is the human psyche's experience of openness and novelty. More than any other power, it is what distinguishes the human psyche... (Gaston Bachelard, *Air and Dreams*)
7. A house that has been experienced is not an inert box. Inhabited space transcends geometrical space. (Gaston Bachelard, *The Poetics of Space*)