

Beauty and Ritual: Judaica from the Jewish Museum, New York

October 30, 2026–February 7, 2027 • Upper-Level Galleries



Moshe Zabari. Hanukkah lamp and dreidel, 1982.
Hand-worked copper alloy; 7 3/4 x 12 1/2 x
11 1/8 in. The Jewish Museum, Gift of the artist,
1986-11a-f. Image courtesy of the Jewish Museum

Drawn from the world-renowned collection of the Jewish Museum in New York City, this exhibition presents more than one hundred Jewish ceremonial objects (Judaica) from antiquity to the present, including books, silver, and textiles. From South Asia to North Africa and Western Europe, the works represent many parts of the world and display a diversity of Jewish cultures.

Exploring the artistic, cultural, and ritualistic significance of these objects, the exhibition illuminates how Jewish communities and artists have creatively adapted traditional

forms of Judaica by utilizing a rich array of materials, styles, and techniques. The works are organized thematically in three sections: "The Art of the Synagogue: Adorning the Torah," "A Day of Rest: The Radiance of the Sabbath," and "Beyond the Synagogue and the Home: The Light of the Hanukkah Menorah." The Frist Art Museum's presentation of this exhibition will coincide with Hanukkah, the eight-day festival of lights.

Beauty and Ritual provides a lens into the objects' stories of precious ownership and often precarious survival against all odds, escaping near destruction and being salvaged under extraordinary circumstances. The exhibition invites people of all backgrounds and cultures to engage with the remarkable stories of exceptional pieces of Judaica.

Beauty and Ritual: Judaica from the Jewish Museum, New York has been organized by the Jewish Museum, New York.

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Frist Art Museum

Curriculum Connections: *Beauty and Ritual: Judaica from the Jewish Museum, New York*

Tennessee Academic Standards

Fine Arts: Visual Arts

Grades K–12

CREATE: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.; Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.; Refine and complete artistic work.

PRESENT: Select, analyze and interpret artistic work for production.; Develop and refine artistic work for production.; Convey and express meaning through the production of artistic work.

RESPOND: Perceive and analyze artistic work.; Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.; Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

CONNECT: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to artistic endeavors.; Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context.

Social Studies

Grades K–12: Social Studies Practices

SSP.01: Gather information from a variety of sources, including: Printed materials (e.g., literary texts, newspapers, political cartoons, autobiographies, speeches, letters, personal journals); Graphic representations (e.g., maps, timelines, charts, artwork); Artifacts; Media and technology sources.

Grades 6–8

6.21: Describe the development of the ancient Israelites, and explain the reasons for their movements from Mesopotamia to Canaan (later called Israel), from Canaan to Egypt, and from Egypt back to Canaan.

6.22: Describe the origins and central features of Judaism:

- Key Person(s): Abraham, Moses
- Sacred Texts: The Tanakh (i.e., Hebrew Bible)
- Basic Beliefs: monotheism, Ten Commandments, emphasis on individual worth and personal responsibility

6.23: Identify the importance of Saul as the first king of Israel, David as the second king who founded Jerusalem as the capital, and Solomon as the third king who built the first temple.

6.24: Summarize the breakup of the Kingdom of Israel, Babylonian captivity, and the return of the Jews to their homeland under the Persian Empire.

6.60: Explain the expulsion of the Jews from their homeland by the Romans, which began the Jewish diaspora.

7.35: Explain how the Crusades impacted Christian, Muslim, and Jewish populations in Europe, with emphasis on the increasing contact with cultures outside Europe.

Grades 9–12

AH.08: Describe the origins and central features of Judaism and its distinctions from other early religious traditions:

- Key Person(s): Abraham, Moses
- Sacred Texts: The Tanakh (Hebrew Bible)
- Basic Beliefs: monotheism, Ten Commandments, emphasis on individual worth and personal responsibility

AH.09: Describe the diffusion of Judaism, and analyze its religious, social, and legal contributions.

US.47: Analyze the response of the U.S. to the plight of European Jews before the start of the war, the U.S. liberation of concentration camps during the war, and the immigration of Holocaust survivors after the war.

W.49: Describe the persecution of Jews and other targeted groups in Europe leading up to World War II, and explain why many people were unable to leave and their efforts to resist persecution.

W.50: Explain the state-sponsored mass murder of the Jews in Nazi-controlled lands, and describe the varied experiences of Holocaust survivors and victims.