



PRUZAN FAMILY CENTER FOR LEARNING BACKGROUNDER

The Jewish Museum's new Pruzan Family Center for Learning features a series of light-filled, accessible galleries, displaying over 200 works of fine art, ceremonial objects, artifacts, and decorative art from the Museum's collection, as well as facilities for education and artmaking.

The Center is anchored by the overarching theme of **People, Places, and Objects**, which invites visitors to consider art and objects as catalysts for shaping a deeper understanding of human experience. Spanning ancient times to today, the thematic presentations throughout the floor build bridges of knowledge about Jewish history and reflects the vibrancy of creative expression throughout the Jewish Diaspora. Visitors can explore the intersection of art, artistry, and Jewish culture through hands-on interaction, close examination, and questions that serve as points of entry for reflection and dialogue.

The installation includes the following sections:

- A monumental **Hanukkah Lamp installation explores the meaning of light** through more than 130 Hanukkah lamps drawn from the Jewish Museum collection of over a thousand lamps. These lamps, crafted around the globe—from Asia to the Americas—and from ancient times to today, reveal how Jewish communities have upheld their heritage while engaging with surrounding cultures.
- An **installation of artifacts** inspires visitors to consider **how objects from the collection tell the stories of ancient Israel's inhabitants**, focusing on the daily lives of Israelites (later called Jews) over three thousand years ago. Examples of modern and contemporary design are included to demonstrate both continuity and innovation in the form and use of objects.
- An **interactive touch wall** invites guests to explore **how artists work with materials** and invites them to touch and discover objects of different shapes, sizes, forms, and textures that mirror artworks in the Jewish Museum collection, ranging from ceremonial to everyday, made of clay, synthetic materials, metal, and stone.
- A simulated **archaeological dig**, designed by Koko Architecture + Design, allows visitors to get their hands dirty to search for clay jars, oil lamps, and other artifacts, revealing how the field of archaeology provides clues about the daily lives of people who lived long ago and the communities who made them.
- A **painting installation of portraits and landscapes** provides a lens to explore and understand the forces that shape individual and collective identity. Paintings on view range across differing geographical locations and time periods, conveying emotional depth and cultural meaning that resonates with audiences today.

For more information or images, please contact Resnicow and Associates at JewishMuseum@resnicow.com or Anne Scher at The Jewish Museum at Ascher@thejm.org.