



Come Let Us Light the Minorah

Date

1960

Primary Maker

Frank Kleinholz

Medium

oil on canvas

Description

The history of a people is often revealed through the cultural traditions they cling to and the festivals they observe. Certainly this is true for the Jewish people, whose holidays derive from ancient traditions and rituals of faith. Hanukkah is the Jewish Feast of Lights or Dedication, which is the Hebrew meaning of the word Hanukkah (Chanukah). The story of this happy holiday, which lasts eight days and usually falls in December, is told in the Apocryphal books of the Maccabees: In 165 BCE, after a

year of struggle, the Jews in Judea defeated the Syrian, Antiochus IV, and rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem to God. Wishing to light their holy lamps, they discovered only enough oil for one small lamp. Miraculously, the lamp burned for eight days. Judah Maccabee, the Jewish hero of the war, then proclaimed a festival to be observed by all Jews. During Hanukkah, gifts are exchanged and candles successively burned each night.

Dimensions

Sight: 33 3/4 x 23 1/2 in. (85.7 x 59.7 cm) Framed: 44 1/2 x 34 1/4 x 1 1/2 in. (113 x 87 x 3.8 cm)