ART OF DISSENT

UJA FEDERATION
Live generously

REMEMBER זכור

Glass Roof or Hot House

Themes

- Danger or menace
- Fragility/vulnerability
- Containment

Before the Viewing

- List all the environments that we are in—going outward from the most immediate. How do these environments protect us?

- What characteristics do you associate with the game of chess?

- From which threats or menaces do we currently need protection?

Discussion

- Why is nearly everything in the picture cut off? The chess board, hot house, the person and the trees and plants? What does this truncation suggest?

- What are the most menacing aspects of this picture? Do they come from the sky or elsewhere? Is the man protected or not?

- What do you feel the chess board symbolizes?

- How does this picture which is *wide open* still create a sense of containment?

- By 1939 it became virtually impossible for Jews to flee Germany. How does this painting create a sense of containment and vulnerability?

Activities

- Draw the right hand side of the hot house which you don't see. Include at least one of today's menaces in your work

- Imagine that the plant-like structure with its tube coming towards the man is a loudspeaker. Write a sentence or two of what is coming out of the speaker. In your case, who is broadcasting?

- The Allies often dropped leaflets. Imagine that the plane dropped leaflets and the man has picked one up. What does the leaflet say?

Extensions

- Although this painting is about WWII, look at it through the eyes of a modern environmentalist. What would be its key messages for an environmentalist?

- WWII exposed many of mankind's vulnerabilities. Read Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five* to explain what human vulnerabilities it explores

- In 1914 as part of the *Werkbund Exhibition* in Cologne the architect Bruno Taut created a glass house that was viewed as a marvel. Research Taut's glass house and describe what is both good and bad about a glass house

- The music that accompanies a movie creates atmosphere. Compose a very short piece of music to capture the atmosphere of this painting