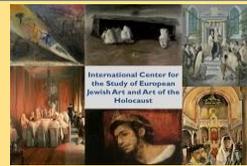


International Center for the Study of European Jewish Art and Art of the Holocaust



Newsletter – June 2015



From the Director Ronit D. Appel

Artwork holds a key to the soul of an artist. Artwork often conveys the artist's rawest and most personal emotions and allows us to see deep into the artist's soul.

When viewing one of Moritz Daniel Oppenheim's magnificent paintings of Jewish life painted in 19th century Europe, one can sense how proud he was of his Jewish identity even at a time when so many Jewish artists abandoned Judaism.



Moritz Daniel Oppenheim

When viewing one of Felix Nussbaum's beautiful yet haunting paintings painted during the Holocaust, one can feel Nussbaum's growing terror and despair.



Felix Nussbaum

By viewing and learning about the artwork of the great European Jewish artists and the brave Jewish artists of the Holocaust, we can gain insight into the souls and minds of these incredibly talented artists who made an indelible mark on history. I look forward to continuing to share with you the inspiring life stories and beautiful artwork of the great European Jewish artists and artists of the Holocaust.

Sheila P. Appel Library for Jewish Art

On May 12th, the Center celebrated the opening of the Center's Sheila P. Appel Library for Jewish Art, dedicated in memory of Sheila P. Appel, the beloved mother of our Director. The Library, which is home to an important collection of books on Jewish art and art of the Holocaust, will enable the Center to further its mission of broadening the public's knowledge of the history of Jewish and Israeli art and art of the Holocaust and will carry on the legacy of Sheila P. Appel, a woman with an everlasting love for her Jewish heritage.

Featured Lecture

Adolf Eichmann on Trial Jewish Art as Testimony of the Events of the Holocaust

The audience sat riveted at Congregation Edmond J. Safra on May 6th as they heard from our Director, Ronit D. Appel, about the role that art played in the capture and trial of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann and about the value of art in documenting the events of the Holocaust.



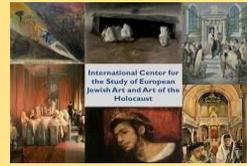
Peter Zvi Malkin

The audience learned about the fascinating life and artwork of renowned artist and Mossad agent Peter Zvi Malkin (1927-2005), who was part of the Mossad team that captured Adolf Eichmann in Argentina in 1960. The audience also learned about the artwork of numerous Jewish artists that was presented as evidence at Eichmann's trial in Jerusalem in 1961. All left with a greater understanding of the events surrounding the capture and trial of Adolf Eichmann and the fascinating role that art played in those events and in Eichmann's trial.

About the Center

The Center was established in January of 2015 in New York City with the purpose of promoting research on European Jewish art and art of the Holocaust, including art looted during the Holocaust, furthering the public's understanding of the roots of Jewish and Israeli art, furthering the public's knowledge of European Jewish art and art of the Holocaust, and ensuring that the lives and artwork of the great Jewish artists who risked their lives to paint during the Holocaust are remembered for eternity.

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Featured Artwork - Moon Landscape

“Moon Landscape” (below) was drawn by Petr Ginz, a child imprisoned in the Terezín Ghetto during the Holocaust and killed in Auschwitz in 1944 at the age of sixteen. The drawing, which depicts mountains on the moon with earth shining bright in the distance, is symbolic of Petr’s unbreakable spirit and vivid imagination that could not be quashed.

A literary and artistic genius with a love for science fiction, young Petr dreamed of traveling to the moon many years before man first set foot on the moon. A copy of Moon Landscape was selected to accompany Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia in 2003, representing the realization of Petr’s dream to travel to space. Sadly, the space shuttle exploded while returning to earth, killing all astronauts and crew members aboard.



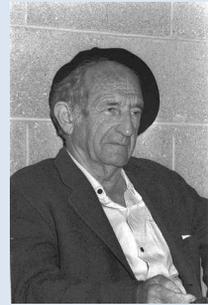
Petr Ginz



Petr Ginz, *Moon Landscape*, 1942-1944; Pencil on paper; Collection of the Yad Vashem Art Museum, Jerusalem, Israel

Featured Artist - Nahum Gutman

Nahum Gutman, one of Israel’s most important artists, was born in 1898 in Telenești, Bessarabia and moved to Palestine when he was seven years old. At the age of fifteen, he enrolled in the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts in Jerusalem, where he studied under renowned artists Boris Schatz and Abel Pann. When World War I broke out, Gutman’s studies were interrupted and he went to work at the wineries and orange orchards of Petach-Tikvah, Rehovot and Rishon Lezion. When the war ended, Gutman served with the Jewish Legion and stood guard over Turkish war prisoners in a prisoners’ camp in Egypt. In 1920, Gutman traveled to Europe to continue his art studies and studied in Vienna, Paris, and Berlin. In 1926, he returned to Palestine and was one of the founders of the new “Eretz Yisrael” style of painting.



Nahum Gutman

During his lifetime, Gutman earned wide-spread recognition as an artist, sculptor, and author and illustrator of children’s books. Gutman passed away in Tel Aviv on November 28, 1980. In May of 1988, the Nahum Gutman Museum of Art opened in the Neve Tzedek neighborhood of Tel Aviv.



Nahum Gutman, *Resting at Noon*, 1926; Oil on canvas; Collection of the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel