A Long Day's Journey into the Dark Past: Artists-Survivors Facing their Holocaust Memories



A lecture by Dr. Pnina Rosenberg September 21, 2016 at 7:00 PM University of Hartford Mortensen Library, KF Room 200 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford, CT RSVP to MGCJS@hartford.edu

From late 1945 on, artists-survivors who recorded their Holocaust experiences were motivated both by an urgent need to reveal the Nazi atrocities and to come to terms with their haunted past. This can be seen in paintings and drawings done by artists such as David Olère, Ella Liebermann-Shiber and Max Bueno de Mesquita who sought to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive and at the same time to confront their past by re-creating it through their artistic talent. The importance of this testimonial-therapeutic artistic activity was attested by Liebermann-Shiber who wrote: "I felt that each painting not only brought back my terrible past but also eased in a certain way the burden of my thoughts. I felt belief in mankind came back slowly to me, in spite of the horrible and cruel past suffered by my people and myself." (On the Edge of the Abyss, 1997).

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