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***In Confidence: Holocaust History Told By Those Who Lived It***  
**Installation to Open at the**  
**Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust**

*Featuring rare and never-before-exhibited artifacts, artwork,  
and the museum premiere of The Last Goodbye,  
an immersive virtual reality testimony produced by USC Shoah Foundation.*

New York, NY – *In Confidence: Holocaust History Told By Those Who Lived It* is a new, multimedia installation that encourages visitors to engage with personal expressions of Holocaust experience. Correspondence, possessions, photographs, artworks, journals, testimonies—history has confided these to us. Through each we can listen, reflect, and respond. The installation will be on view at the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust from September 16, 2018 to January 31, 2019.

Visitors will discover artifacts from the collections of the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, a special presentation of *The Girl in the Diary* (in partnership with the Galicia Jewish Museum), an introduction to the stunning work of acclaimed artist Mikhail Turovsky, and an encore presentation of the HBO film *The Number on Great-Grandpa's Arm*.

*In Confidence* also features the museum premiere of *The Last Goodbye*—an immersive virtual reality testimony (produced by USC Shoah Foundation). In his final return to Majdanek, Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter tours the concentration camp where his parents and twin sister were murdered during World War II. As Pinchas recounts his experiences, you walk alongside him—seeing what he sees, hearing what he hears, and learning as he guides visitors through an account of his own history. *The Last Goodbye* represents unprecedented advances in storytelling through technology. (Reservations recommended for this 20-minute experience.)

This presentation of *The Last Goodbye* is its museum premiere, simultaneously debuted by the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, and The Florida Holocaust Museum. Through our strong partnership, visitors to Holocaust education institutions across the U.S. are discovering how “the technology of the future” can help us explore, study, and preserve evidence of the past.

“Evidence of personal experience is often what ‘gets through’ to Museum visitors—communicating historical content while allowing people to make human connections,” said Museum President & CEO Michael S. Glickman. “From hidden journals written in the ghettos to artistic reflections to virtual reality, *In Confidence* gives people a range of opportunities to engage. Testimony is prominently featured. When a Holocaust survivor tells her story, she re-asserts the humanity and dignity that the Nazis attempted to destroy. It is an act of resistance.”

As visitors walk through *In Confidence*, they will tour items across a range of formats. Some of the artifacts on display were produced during the horrors of World War II; others were created in its aftermath. Some of the individuals who created these objects did not anticipate an audience. They kept private records and sketches of their experiences, using pen and paper to insist on their perspectives. Others sought to deliberately preserve—and to teach—their stories for the benefit of future generations. Their artworks open a window onto annihilated worlds; their eyewitness accounts stand as evidence. *In Confidence* asks that we take responsibility for carrying these stories forward.

*In Confidence: Holocaust History Told By Those Who Lived It* is featured in the Museum’s Irving Schneider and Family Gallery. The installation is made possible in part by the Murray and Frida Krell Testimony Fund. The Krell Testimony Fund enables the Museum to preserve and present survivor testimony—documenting personal experience of global significance.

#### **More information about *In Confidence*:**

##### ***The Girl in the Diary***

Presented in partnership with the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, *The Girl in the Diary* section features excerpts of Rywka Lipszyc’s diary—written in the Lodz Ghetto (1943-44) and discovered after the war near the ruins of Crematorium 3 at Auschwitz. The diary’s powerful words are accompanied by artifacts from the Ghetto, including objects manufactured in the workshops, food coupons, and other items that speak to the struggle to endure.

We may never know what ultimately happened to Rywka Lipszyc. The discovery of her writing, and the chance to hear about her life in her own words, both enriches our understanding of her experiences and deepens our sense of loss. The last sentence on the last surviving page of Rywka’s diary is unfinished.

“A few years ago, in my dreams, when I was imagining my future, I could see sometimes: an evening, a studio, a desk, there is a woman sitting at the desk (an older woman), she’s writing . . . and writing, and writing . . . all the time . . . she forgets about her surroundings, she’s writing. I can see myself as this woman.”

—Rywka Lipszyc in her diary, February 28, 1944

## ***The Art of Mikhail Turovsky***

In 1980, Mikhail Turovsky (b. 1933 in Kiev) began a cycle of artworks on the theme of the Holocaust—ultimately producing 65 paintings and many drawings. In the years since, Turovsky's Holocaust paintings have been exhibited at Yad Vashem, the headquarters of the United Nations Organization, and at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City. The artist's drawings exhibited in *In Confidence* speak to his commitment to examining the history of personal impact of the Holocaust.

Turovsky has said: "The subject to which I have devoted decades of work, and which holds a special place in my artistic life, is the Holocaust. In the post-World War II Soviet Union, there was no open acknowledgment of the Holocaust. In my native Kiev, the tragedy of Babi Yar was never spoken of. Jews that managed to escape Kiev and return after the war learned of the deaths of their loved ones only because they had disappeared from the face of the earth. There was no official information or record of where or how they died. I wanted to express this tragedy, to convey the horror that these people—my grandmother and cousins among them—experienced in the face of annihilation, to express my own pain and compassion."

## ***Collections of the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust***

The Museum of Jewish Heritage is the third largest Holocaust museum in the world. Its collections comprise approximately 40,000 items and 4,000 audio and audiovisual survivor testimonies. From drawings to photographs to diaries, *In Confidence* features items that speak to different Holocaust experiences:

In a rare moment of quiet, a young woman records in her diary her impressions of life in the ghetto.

A photo album—painstakingly assembled across years—reveals the complexity of pre-War life and suggests the enormous losses to come.

A little girl—suffering illness, confined to a hospital—writes a letter begging her mother to come to the window so she can see her.

Artwork highlights include the drawings of Helga Weisssova (b. 1929), who created more than 100 drawings in her nearly three years in Terezin—from when she was 12 years old to when she was 14. The young artist drew everyday scenes as well as exceptional events, giving us a window onto what she witnessed. When Helga Weisssova was deported from Terezin in 1944, her drawings—left with her uncle Josef Polak—remained hidden in a barracks wall. Helga and her mother Irena endured desperate, hellish conditions at Auschwitz, and then at Freiburg, and then at Mauthausen. In the face of death, they were finally liberated by the U.S. Army on May 5, 1945. After her return to her native Prague on May 21, 1945, Weisssova reclaimed her drawings, which now stand as evidence of her experiences—and the early work of an award-winning artist.

*In Confidence* also features the drawings of Peter Loewenstein (b. 1919), who was deported to the Terezin concentration camp/ghetto in the fall of 1941, when he was 22 years old. In the years he was in Terezin, Peter created approximately 70 drawings in ink and watercolor—depicting the camp, the Jewish people who were forced to live there, and the difficult conditions that they endured. When Peter learned that he would be deported to Auschwitz in 1944, he entrusted his portfolio to his mother. When his mother and sister were then deported, the portfolio passed to a family friend. Peter Loewenstein perished in Auschwitz. His sister Gerda—the only surviving member of the family—reclaimed his artwork after the war. When Gerda donated 53 of her brother’s drawings to the Museum, she explained: “I hope that my brother’s name will be remembered and his work appreciated.”

With few exceptions, the Museum items featured in this installation were donated by survivors or their families—sometimes so that the remaining traces of their loved ones’ lives would be remembered.

### **General Information**

#### **MUSEUM HOURS AND LOCATION**

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, 10 AM to 6 PM

Wednesday and Thursday 10 AM to 8 PM

Friday 10 AM to 3 PM, EST / 10 AM to 5 PM DST

The Museum is closed on Saturdays, Jewish holidays, and Thanksgiving.

The Museum is located at 36 Battery Place in Lower Manhattan.

[mjhny.org](http://mjhny.org)

646.437.4202

#### **MUSEUM ADMISSION**

General Museum admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$7 for students, free for members, Holocaust survivors, and children 12 and younger.

Museum **admission is free on Wednesday and Thursday evenings** from 4 PM to 8 PM

Reservations recommended for the 20-minute virtual reality experience *The Last Goodbye*, featured within *In Confidence*.

#### **ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE – A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST**

The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust is New York’s contribution to the global responsibility to never forget. The Museum is committed to the crucial mission of educating diverse visitors about Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust. The second largest Holocaust museum in the United States, the Museum anchors the southernmost tip of

Manhattan, completing the cultural and educational landscape it shares with the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

Since 1997, the Museum of Jewish Heritage has welcomed more than two million visitors; it maintains a collection of more than 40,000 artifacts, photographs, documentary films, and survivor testimonies and contains classrooms, a 400-seat theater (Edmond J. Safra Hall), special exhibition galleries, a resource center for educators, and a memorial art installation, *Garden of Stones*, designed by internationally acclaimed sculptor Andy Goldsworthy.

The Museum receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and New York State Council on the Arts.

For more information, visit [mjhny.org](http://mjhny.org).

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