Jan Sawka Holocaust Survivors Poster

November 12, 2013

This offset poster for the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors was produced in 1980 by Jan Sawka. Size is 30.5 x 24.5 inches (Minimum bid $TBD).

Jan Sawka donated this design to the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors at the request of his close friend and collaborator in the New York theater scene, Jack Garfein, a film and theater director. He established the Harold Clurman Theater and the Samuel Beckett Theater in New York. Mr. Sawka worked at both theaters as a graphic and set designer. The two gentlemen were also friends.

Mr. Garfein, a Czech Jew, is a survivor of Auschwitz. Both Jan Sawka’s family and his wife’s had lost members at the hands of the Nazis, including victims at the camps. For everyone involved, this project had deep meaning. At the request of the organizers of the Gathering, Jan Sawka created a design that would encompass both the tragedy and also the hopefulness of the survivors.

Jan Sawka was a set designer, printmaker, painter and architect. His work is in over 60 museum collections including Pompidou Centre, Paris; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, Toyama, Japan; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Israeli Museum, and National Museum, Warsaw.

This poster is part of the permanent collection of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.
Jan Sawka died on Aug. 9, 2012 at his home of over 20 years in High Falls, N.Y. A memorial show opened at the National Museum in Krakow, Poland in May 2013. Currently, there is an exhibition on view until Dec. 14 of his paintings and prints at not-for-profit Gallery Aferro, 73 Market Street, Newark, NJ.

More about the artist is at his website: http://jansawka.com//bio/career.html.

Poster donated by the Jan Sawka Estate