

*The Ambassador of Hungary*

Marcin Chumiecki - Director  
The Polish Mission of The Orchard Lake Schools  
Polish-American Art and Cultural Research Foundation  
3535 Indian Trail  
Orchard Lake, Michigan 48324

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Dear Friends,

I was honored to be invited to this very important and moving exhibition organized by the Polish Mission. I regret that I am not able to attend in person and would like to send my greetings to those attending and thank the organizers for holding this event.

On January 27th, we remember the 69th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the most infamous of the Nazi death camps, where over 1.3 million people were murdered. Jews, Romani, mentally ill, political prisoners and others were executed on an industrial scale in Auschwitz. Among the victims were over 400 thousand Hungarian Jews who were murdered only for being Jewish.

The unspeakable horror and brutality of Auschwitz has shaken many of our core beliefs and assumptions about human nature and made us realize how fragile our civilization can be. Trying to make sense of the inexplicable is not possible, but we do know that remembering the Holocaust is our moral duty. Honoring the memory of the victims through truthful remembrance is also the first step in upholding one of the guiding principles of the post-Holocaust political class in Europe and throughout the world: never again!

After the Holocaust, we can never look the other way if we see Anti-Semitism and we must always know when to raise our voice in the face of hatred. There is no place for Anti-Semitism, religious intolerance, or any form of racism in our democracies today. We know what racism and Anti-Semitism can lead to.

The Nazis and their collaborators tried to deny the humanity of their victims, taking away their names, belongings and identity. *Forbidden Art* demonstrates through the art of Auschwitz inmates that ultimately this was not possible. The art shown here was a way for the victims to preserve their dignity in the face of unprecedented barbarism and is a testament to their humanity. These works of art not only serve as a remembrance of the horrors of Auschwitz, but honor the humanity of the victims.

Allow me to thank the Polish Mission again for organizing this exhibition and recognize your important help in keeping the memory of all the victims of the Holocaust alive.

Sincerely,

  
György Szapáry