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Museum Presents 38 Newly Rotated Artworks in Samuel Bak Gallery

Houston (June 22, 2022) . . . Since 1996, Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH) has been committed to honoring Holocaust survivors' legacy. Friday, July 1 marks the Houston debut of 38 newly rotated artworks by Holocaust survivor Samuel Bak, on view in the Samuel Bak Gallery and Learning Center in loving memory of Hope Silber Kaplan. HMH is home to the nation's largest permanent Samuel Bak collection with over 140 pieces in rotation.

Born in 1933 in Vilna, Poland, Bak's artistic talent was first recognized during an exhibition of his work in the Vilna Ghetto when he was nine years old. Bak and his mother survived the Holocaust through the efforts of his father, his aunt and a Benedictine nun known as Sister Maria who gave Bak and his mother shelter in a convent in Vilna. While both Bak and his mother survived, his father and four grandparents all perished at the hands of the Nazis. Bak's life-and-death experiences inspired his prolific work and collection of artworks.

Featured in the selected works, *Stardom* is a play on the phrases "glass half full" or "glass half empty." The piece is a nod to Bak's fascination with contradictions. The cracked porcelain cup in the foreground of the painting is marked with a broken Jewish star with a smoke stack placed inside. The Jewish star in this painting memorializes Bak's father. [Click here for photos of featured Bak works.](#)

In the painting *Saving the Face*, Bak illustrates a decaying bust adorned with the scales of justice. The scales obstruct the eyes of the bust, potentially alluding to people being blind to atrocities. Figures in the painting work to fix the scales, representing individuals fighting for justice. *Study for the Even Handed* also features themes of justice with Lady Justice holding up the unbalanced scales.

Holocaust Museum Houston, Lester and Sue Smith Campus, is fully bilingual in English and Spanish and located at 5401 Caroline Street. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, July 4th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The Museum's Legacy Café is open during Museum hours. Beginning July 1, admission is \$22 for adults; \$16 for seniors (ages 65+) and AARP members, free for active-duty military through Labor Day; always free for children and students through age 18; and free to all visitors Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Parking is available at the Museum's adjacent lot for \$8 for a four-hour period. For more visitor information, visit hnh.org/tickets.

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