MY UKRAINIAN ROOTS

by JOAN MYERSON SHRAGER
Art of WAR

This body of work is created using the computer, iPhone and iPad with software programs: Photoshop, Procreate and multiple art apps. It is heart breaking.

[Signature]
Joan Myerson Shrager
Phila High School for Girls; University of Pennsylvania, Masters Temple University;
Tyler School of Art, Moore College of Art, Cheltenham Art Center; Abington Art Center

Professional artist 50+ years
Exhibited in hundreds of art shows countrywide: solo, group
University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, Harcum Colleges work in their collections

Originally a conventional artist using paint and sculpture materials. Since the 90’s
I have used technology, Photoshop and Pro Create with an Apple pencil to create most of my
work.

Former president of Philadelphia artist organization, ACX; a founder and director of artist
cooperative, ArtForms Gallery, Manayunk, 12 years; Co-Director of nationally
recognized student after school art program over 18 years, The Stained Glass Project,
Windows That Open Doors.

I have worked with Rabbi Sussman of Keneseth Israel for over 18 years creating Jewish History
PowerPoint presentations on subjects ranging from Jewish ancient history to Jewish impact on
Rock N Roll.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/myfriendsinart
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UKRAINE ORIGINS:

Grandparents came to USA from Berdichev, Bayla Tserkov and Poltava 1907-8. All three Ukrainian cities experienced antisemitism historically, finalized by massive extermination under direction of the Nazis. So, I don’t really know if I have any living descendents in Ukraine.

Babi Yar with 33,771 Jews murdered in two days. “While scholars are still researching the scale of the Holocaust in Ukraine, they estimate at least one and a half million Jews were killed there.” United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Poltava: My father’s parents “During the Nazi occupation the Jewish population (9.9% of the total population in 1939) was imprisoned in a ghetto before being murdered during mass executions perpetrated by an Einsatzgruppe and buried in mass graves in the area.” Wikipedia

Bila Tserkov: My mom’s mother with whom I lived
Earliest Jewish inhabitants traced to 1648...By end of the 19th century, Jews made up a slight majority of the population at 52.9% of the city's total population, or 18,720 total inhabitants. Jewish Virtual Library cites 1904, Jews owned 250 workshops and 25 factories engaged in light industry employing 300 Jewish workers."Cossack-led attacks, pogroms and the Holocaust, including Bila Tserkva massacre, caused a major demographic shift. Mostly inhabited by ethnic Ukrainians now, with a Jewish population of less than 0.1%. Wikipedia

LENA MEYERS
Berdichev: My mother’s father with whom I lived

In the 1920s, the Yiddish language was officially recognized. 1924, the city had a Ukrainian court of law that conducted its affairs in Yiddish. Soviet authorities closed most of the town's synagogues by 1930s. Remaining Jewish cultural and educational institutions suspended in second half of 1930s, before World War II.

"Extermination" German SS unit established in Berdychiv early July 1941. Jewish ghetto set up. Einsatzgruppen reported on "Sept. 1, and 2, 1941, leaflets and inflammatory pamphlets were distributed by Jews in Berdychiv. As the perpetrators could not be found, 1,303 Jews, among them 875 women over 12 years, executed by Higher SS and Police Leaders". Ghetto liquidated on 5 October 1941, when all inhabitants were murdered.

Eyewitnesses stated that Ukrainian auxiliary police aided the 25-member shooting squad in corralling Jews into the ghetto, policing it, and killing those who attempted to escape. One witness to a mass killing of Jews in Berdychiv said, "They had to wear their festivity-dresses. Then their clothes and valuables were taken. The pits were dug and filled in by war prisoners who were executed shortly after."

The Nazis likely killed 20,000 to 30,000 Jews in Berdychiv, but a 1973 Ukrainian-language article about the history of Berdychiv says, "The Gestapo killed 38,536 people." (Ukrainian: "Гестапівці стратили 38 536 чоловік.") Wikipedia
Recently, the Russians bombed Babi Yar in Ukraine 2022, 33,771 Jews were murdered in two days, Sept 29, 30, 1941. I was 2 then, safe in Philadelphia, PA.

Five-year-old Mania Halef, Jewish, killed mass execution at Babi Yar. US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy Yelena Brusilovsky.

Me, Joanie Myerson
THERE BUT FOR THE
Victory at all costs; victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival.
TEARS OF UKRAINE
MY UNCLE AND OTHER YIDDISH SOLDIERS FIGHT FOR UKRAINE
TRADITION (FIDDLER ON THE ROOF)
TEDDYBEARS AND SUNFLOWERS
UKRAINE ALWAYS ON MY MIND
THE FLOWERS I LEFT IN THE GROUND (LEONARD COHEN)
WORLD ON FIRE
ONCE THERE WERE SUNFLOWERS
BLACK SUNFLOWER
MOTHER AND BABE DEAD
BABIES, BOMBS
AND SUNFLOWERS
GHOSTS

THERE BUT FOR THE-GOES MY FAMILY
MEMORIES OF BETTER TIMES
THE EVIL EYE
WOMEN AND CHILDREN
NEVER KINDERGARTEN
MISSILES FOR KIDS

MISSILES

marked FOR THE Chi

on TV

Just 50 killed in Russian attack on train station

NEWS
WHERE HAVE ALL THE CHILDREN GONE
WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN
THOUGHTS OF YESTERDAY
THE SUNFLOWERS ARE DYING
WELCOME HOME
WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN
WHEAT FIELDS ON FIRE IN UKRAINE

The Staff of Life
WHERE IS UKRAINE?
"They are trying to destroy us and wipe us off the face of the earth."

Zelenskiy
INDEPENDENCE DAY
LONG LIVE FREE UKRAINE
“Terrifyingly and terribly normal”
Hannah Arendt
DREAMS OF WHAT WAS
WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN
WHERE ARE THE SUNFLOWERS
counter offensive
SLAVA UKRAINE
SLAVA UKRAINE
SLAVA UKRAINE
SLAVA UKRAINE
SLAVA UKRAINI NOW AND FOREVER
BLOOD TOIL AND TEARS

WE STAND WITH UKRAINE
Слава Україні