**“*Minor Remnants from Solna Street.* Isaac Celnikier and the Holocaust Experience”**

**- new temporary exhibition at the Jewish Historical Institute. Emanuel Ringelblum**

**From November 10, 2023, guests of the Jewish Historical Institute will be able to see a new temporary exhibition dedicated to the work of the great Jewish artist and Holocaust survivor, Izaak Celnikier. For the first time, his works created during the political thaw will be shown, in particular numerous drawings and illustrations of stories and poems in Yiddish, which were dispersed and their original purpose forgotten.**

The main part of the exhibition are illustrations of Yiddish stories by Avrom Rejzen (1876–1953)

and poems by Dawid Sfard (1903–1981). The artist never saw these works in print because they were published after he left for France. The drawings have never before been collected together and shown publicly. For the needs of the exhibition, translations from Yiddish of the most interesting stories and poems illustrated by the artist were also prepared, often for the first time.

- *In a letter to Aleksander Lewin, his tutor at the Orphan Home run by Janusz Korczak, Celnikier called the collection of works left in Poland "small remnants from Solna [which] are [...] of no great importance." These works contain coded content relating the viewer to the artist's biography.* - says the curator of the exhibition, **Zuzanna Benesz-Goldfinger, head of the Art Department of the Jewish Historical Institute.**

Celnikier drew from the works of his masters: Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt, Goya, van Gogh, and Picasso. Lovers embracing, inspired by Picasso's work The Embrace, became an important motif in the painting Ghetto with an Angel (1958-1964) and its later variants. The use of a style referring to Picasso's later work in Celnikier's book illustrations refers the viewer to the ideas of antifascism and pacifism.

Izaak Celnikier was born in Warsaw in 1923, and as a child, he lived in the Janusz Korczak Orphan Home. When the war broke out, he left with his family for Białystok, and from 1941 he lived in the local ghetto. After liquidating the Białystok ghetto, Izaak Celnikier went through the German camps in Stutthof, Auschwitz, Flossenbürg, and Dachau. After the war, he studied monumental painting, and in 1957 he went on a scholarship to Paris, where he lived and worked until the end of his life. He died in 2011.

- *Izaak Celnikier's wartime fate and experiences are shocking, and how he transferred them to paper and canvas is proof that painful memories have always accompanied him. So we tell a difficult but very important story, encouraging our guests to discover it in these extraordinary works. Such meetings are one of the foundations of the mission of the Jewish Historical Institute. -* says **Monika Krawczyk, director of the Jewish Historical Institute.**

The exhibition presents works by Izaak Celnikier from the collections of the Jewish Historical Institute. Emanuel Ringelblum, Museum of Jacek Malczewski in Radom, Lubusz Museum. Jan Dekert in Gorzów Wielkopolski, the National Museum in Warsaw, the National Museum in Krakow, as well as from the private collection of the artist's family.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalog and a program of accompanying events.

Press materials are available at www.jhi.pl

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(10.11.2023 – 13.06.2024)

**Director of the Jewish Historical Institute Emanuel Ringelblum:** Monika Krawczyk

**Curator of the exhibition:** Zuzanna Benesz-Goldfinger

**Exhibition implementation:** Zuzanna Benesz-Goldfinger, Marta Kapełuś, Michał Krasicki, Jakub Bendkowski

**Arrangement and graphic design:** Kuba Maria Mazurkiewicz

**Scenography designer:** Pracownia Kontra Tomasz Marzec

**Design and execution of murals:** Paulina Włostowska, Michał Szczęsny Szuwar

**Translations of Awrom Rejzen's stories and Dawid Sfard's poems from Yiddish:** Magdalena Wójcik, Marek Tuszewicki, Agnieszka Żółkiewska

**Translation into English:** Zofia Sochańska

**Conservatorship:** Violetta Bachur, prof. Joanna Czernichowska

**Poster design**: this/studio

**Program of accompanying events:** Anna Ekielska

**Organizer:** Jewish Historical Institute Emanuel Ringelblum

**Media patrons:** artinfo.pl, Niezła Sztuka, Onet, TVP Kultura, Tygodnik Powszechny, TOK.FM

**Partner:** Muzeum Lubusz im. Jan Dekert in Gorzów Wielkopolski

**Contact for media:**

Aleksandra Galant

e: agalant@jhi.pl

m: 785 170 130