



Soka University of America

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Aerial Photographs of Nazi Concentration Camps Inspire Artist of *Fourteen Stations/Hey Yud Dalet* West Coast Premiere Opens Feb. 16, 2006



Aliso Viejo, CA (January 24, 2006) - Soka University's Founders Hall Art Gallery presents the **West Coast premiere** of **Arie Galles' "Fourteen Stations"/"Hey Yud Dalet,"** a monumental suite of 15 charcoal and white Conte' drawings inspired by aerial photographs of Nazi concentration camps taken during World War II. The drawings, which took ten years to complete, are accompanied by the artist's shadow drawings of poems written by PEN award winning poet Jerome Rothenberg. The exhibition, which comes to Orange County from the Florida Holocaust Museum, runs from February 16 - April 28, 2006, with an opening reception on February 16th at 6 pm. Admission is free and the gallery is open M-F from 9 am – 5 pm.

Arie A. Galles was born in 1944 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and grew up in Poland and Israel. An epic response to the history that touched him as a Jewish child living in Poland after World War II, Galles offers this exhibition as his Kaddish (Hebrew prayer for the dead). Each drawing contains a Hebrew phrase from the Kaddish embedded within it and then obscured by layers of charcoal. When mounted in sequence, the drawings compose the entire prayer. Galles spent months researching American and European document archives for the Luftwaffe and Allied aerial reconnaissance negatives on which the drawings are based. For photos of the exhibit and more information regarding the "Fourteen Stations/Hey Yud Dalet" suite of drawings, see <http://fermi.phys.ualberta.ca/~amk/galles/>. High resolution copies of the photos are available by email upon request to info@soka.edu.

Galles studied in Rome, and received a BFA from the Tyler School of Fine Arts, Temple University, and an MFA from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He taught at the UW, School of Visual Arts, Southern Methodist University, UC San Diego, and Fairleigh Dickinson University, before coming to Soka University in 2005 as Professor of Art and Director of the Creative Arts Program. He is completing a book, "Drawing with Ashes," based upon his journal entries through the 10 years it took him to complete the "Fourteen Stations/Hey Yud Dalet" suite of drawings. Galles' drawings and "Reflected Light Paintings" have been exhibited nationally and are in public and private collections in the US and abroad.

Soka University, Aliso Viejo is a private four-year liberal arts college offering a 9:1 student/faculty ratio and a special emphasis on language and culture. All students study a non-native language and spend a semester abroad during their junior year. SUA is founded upon the Buddhist principles of peace, human rights and the sanctity of life. The campus is located at 1 University Drive, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656. Information: 949 480-4081 or www.soka.edu.