

# **Romania 1941/Rwanda 1994**

2006. Acrylic on canvas, collage, fluorescent Plexiglas. 52w" x 44h".

*David Feinberg. Drawing contributions from Romanian survivors Max Goodman and Edith Goodman, Rwandan survivor Alice Tuza and her sister Floriane Robins-Brown, with artists: Caroline Kent, Kelly Frush, David Harris, and Solomon Atta.*

This painting is the collaboration of four survivors: Edith and Max Goodman, Romanian survivors of the Holocaust, and Alice Tuza and Florin Robbins-Brown, Rwandan genocide survivors. Each survivor drew upon a specific memory based on a sound or word they remembered and placed it into the painting.

"Father, I am only ten years old, I want life!" came from a memory by Edith Goodman. Starting with the word LIFE she juxtaposed the letters, separated and rearranged them, giving new relationship and meaning to the word. The letter "F" takes on the identity as Edith's father and the letter "I" stands as the child Edith. Representing soldiers, letters "L" and "E" now stand separated.

Floriane drew upon a fond memory by observing the Hebrew letter "alef" that Max drew. It reminded her of the beautiful dancers of Rwanda. The movement of their bodies and their strong presence made it appropriate to paint it in thick bold strokes in the upper center of the painting.

Alice Tuza was ten years old during the genocide when she heard the sound of a grenade going off. The sound was spelled out phonetically as Alice recalled the memory. "PPPPppuuuaaaaaahhhhhh!" Alice painted these letters diagonally through the painting.

Max recalled a time during WWII when he found himself in a house near a site where bombs were being dropped. In haste for safety he thought to hide under the bed. The words "ha ha" express his realization of how silly it was to think his bed could protect him from a bomb.