

Mrs. Justyna Teacher and Hero

17"x 32"x 4", 2004, Collage, printed silk, yarn, mirrors, acrylic paint on wood.

David Feinberg. Drawing and painting contributions from Sabina Zimering, survivor, and the following artists: Laura Krueger, Katie Novak, and Diane Grace Goodman.

The dedication page from Sabina's book, *Hiding In The Open* reads:

"To my mother and father and all the others brutally silenced.
To our Catholic friends: Mrs. Justyna, my grade school teacher, and her daughters, Danka and Mala, for giving my sister and me a chance to survive the Holocaust."

David asked Sabina if an artwork could be made and dedicated to Mrs. Justyna, the teacher who obtained false Aryan identities for Sabina and her sister just before her family was taken. Sabina thought that that would be wonderful. The picture of Mrs. Justyna (a young Sabina appears at her upper right) was cropped from a class photograph. Many duplications of Sabina's image, created by mirrors, suggest a house of mirrors, as an omen for the years of "Hiding in the Open".

The right side of the artwork has a semi-hidden drawing, which was created by Katie Novak as she helped Sabina complete the following phrase with a drawing: "One night when everybody else was asleep, I stayed up and ...". Sabina told the story of how one night, hungry and unable to sleep, she got up and ate half of the sugar from the bowl that was the ration for the whole family. The next morning, her mother didn't say a word.