

American Pilot Over Auschwitz, 1945

2003. Inkjet pigment print on canvas.

David Feinberg, with drawing and painting contributions from Murray Brandys, survivor, Joe Grosnacht, survivor, and the following artists: Ann Cossette, Ryan Friar and Emily Widi.

This was the first painting in which Murray Brandys and Joe Grosnacht participated. To start the project, we showed them a variety of colored sheets of paper in pairs of two and asked them to select the color that most reflected their Holocaust experience. We set the selected color aside and eliminated the other color. Then we took the selected colors and repeated the process, asking them to select only one color from each pair. This process was continued until we arrived at the final choices of gray and orange. This process was then used to determine size and placement of the colors.

As the painting took shape, my colleague, Dr. Stephen Feinstein, Director of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota, noted that the image looked like an aerial view of Auschwitz. He sent the Voice to Vision team a reconnaissance photograph taken over Auschwitz by an American pilot in 1945. A detail of this photograph was arranged by computer to suggest a deeper perspective and the result was enlarged and collaged onto the canvas. The drips were added to suggest railroad tracks and airplane trails.