

# LOOMING IN THE SHADOWS OF LODZ

LESLIE STAROBIN, TAMAR SEGEV, AND ORI SEGEV

JULY 5 - DECEMBER 7, 2024

HODGES GALLERY



# *Content*

- 01** Curatorial Statement
- 02** Exhibition Statement
- 03** Artists' Statements
- 07** Artists' Biographies
- 11** Exhibition Goals
- 12** Invitation to Create
- 13** ARTtalk
- 14** Works in the exhibition
- 20** Resources
- 24** Thank You

# Curatorial Statement

Martin Luther King famously said, “War is not the answer,” during his April 1967 speech, *Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence*. Marvin Gaye followed up in song by adding, “War is not the answer because only love can conquer hate.” Coercion, intimidation, and the use of force are ineffective, immoral, and unethical, not to mention destructive to all life forms as well as devastating to the global environment. *Looming in the Shadows of Lodz* asks viewers to understand the impacts of war on all beings, whether in Ukraine, Russian, Palestine, Israel, Afghanistan, Myanmar, or anywhere else that the Geneva Academy is currently monitoring the more than 110 armed conflicts across the planet.

Citizens become displaced refugees, water is polluted or scarce, economies collapse, and the infrastructure that supports lives—our homes, our places of worship and work are eviscerated in a matter of seconds to say nothing of the devastating impact on our next-to human kin and the natural ecosystems that support all life. On the brink of WWII, why are we repeating the atrocities of genocide? Why haven’t we learned anything about human decency in the thousands of years humanoids have been on this planet? Why are we destroying the earth – the only home we have? *Looming* asks us to remember that we can weave a better future from the warp and weft of the past.

— Mary Anne Redding, Senior Curator

# Exhibition Statement

On the seventy-fifth anniversary of their relatives' deportation from the Lodz Ghetto to Auschwitz-Birkenau, a family of artists travels to Poland to uncover their roots. Through their respective mediums—photography, painting, and filmmaking, the three image-makers respond to the experiences of the first and second generation of Polish-Jewish and Israeli Holocaust survivors in their family. Employing narrative and visual storytelling, representation, and abstraction, still and mediated imagery, these American artists aspire to preserve their family's multi-continental migration and wartime legacy across time and space. In today's climate of rising xenophobia, the narratives of Holocaust survivors can serve as warnings about the perils of hatred unchecked.

In challenging periods, art can serve as an educational catalyst. **Looming in the Shadows of Lodz** underscores how artists interpret history through a personal lens, encouraging viewers to respond in part based on their lived experiences. Inviting meaningful dialogue and reflection, the artworks speak to those familiar and unfamiliar with this chapter in world history.

— The Starobin-Segev Family



# Artists' Statements

Leslie Starobin  
Tamar Segev  
Ori Segev

**Looming in the Shadows of Lodz** features the work of three Americans inspired by a roots' trip to Poland. Employing narrative and visual storytelling through representation and abstraction, the artists present their family's migration and wartime legacy in this multi-media exhibition. This multi-generational family project has been inspired, in part, by writings on post memory and visual culture.

"Scholarly work on the Holocaust has looked to this moment when survivors and other contemporary witnesses are leaving our midst, with great trepidation," writes Dr. Marianne Hirsch in *The Generation of Postmemory: Writing and Visual Culture After the Holocaust*. "How will the story survive without their acts of witness? The second generation has acted as a gatekeeper, but we now have to realize that we are ourselves handing the story on to the third and making it available for others to connect their own very different histories.

# Leslie Starobin

## ARTIST STATEMENT

Photographer **Leslie Starobin** captures familial habitats and sites of Nazi genocide as they appear in Poland today. She frames her pictures with stories she collected over decades from relatives who experienced these places first-hand.



# Tamar Segev

## ARTIST STATEMENT

Artist **Tamar Segev** repeatedly paints the entryway to her grandmother's apartment in the Lodz ghetto. Echoing the sentiments of third-generation survivors, she says, "We return to the actual and approximate sites of our grandparents' pasts in an endeavor to 'capture memory'—before we lose the chance. Yet, regardless of the number of return visits, we still find ourselves lost in the 'fragments of memories.' For me, this return occurs in each new canvas."



## Ori Segev

### ARTIST STATEMENT

Filmmaker **Ori Segev** tracks his Israeli father retracing his parents' past in Lodz. Everywhere he goes, Segev's father takes pictures to share with his aunt in Jerusalem—the only first-generation survivor alive to caption his photographs.





# *Artists' Biographies*

Leslie Starobin  
Tamar Segev  
Ori Segev

# Leslie Starobin

## BIOGRAPHY



**Leslie Starobin** (Second Generation) is a Professor Emerita of Art at Framingham State University in Framingham, MA. Throughout her career, unraveling the threads of human memory has been central to her creative process. Her photographs, photo-narratives, and still-life montages are inspired by people and places steeped in family history, enriched by cultural traditions, and central to world history and the environment.

Starobin's artwork is in the permanent collection of many American museums, including the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; Jewish Museum, NY, NY; Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; Museum of Modern Art, NY, NY; The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life at University of California at Berkeley, CA; Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC; Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA; Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA; and the Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

Starobin's photographs and photomontages have been exhibited at numerous museums, including at the Center for Jewish History in New York city. In 2015, she had a solo exhibit entitled *Dear Dearest Mother* at the Danforth Art Museum in Framingham, MA. In 2012-13, she had a solo exhibit entitled *Inheritance: Stories of Memory and Discovery* at the Holocaust Museum Houston, Houston, TX.

Starobin received support for **Looming in the Shadows of Lodz** from a Combined Jewish Philanthropies Arts and Culture Community Impact Grant (Boston chapter).

# Tamar Segev

## BIOGRAPHY



**Tamar Segev** (Third Generation) is a visual artist from Boston, MA, working in painting, printmaking, and drawing. She holds a BA in Studio Art from Carleton College and an MFA in Painting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She also received a Graduate Certificate in Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies from Illinois. Segev has exhibited her work nationally and internationally, including in Brooklyn, NY, Cambridge, MA, and Ottawa, Canada. Since completing her MFA in 2021, she has shown her work in four solo exhibitions, including one at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her artwork is in the public collection of I Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign, IL.

From 2021-22, Segev taught Drawing I and II at Millikin University in Decatur, IL and Experimental Drawing at Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, RI. Beginning fall semester 2022, she is a Visiting Lecturer at Framingham State University in Framingham, MA.

Segev is a recipient of the 2022 Naomi Anolic Early Career Jewish Artist Award. In 2023, she attended a three-month residency at GlogauAIR in Berlin. Her current series explores the connections between familial memory, historical narratives, and Jewish history as they are embedded in specific sites and surfaces of architecture in Poland and Germany.

# Ori Segev

## BIOGRAPHY



**Ori Segev** (Third Generation) is an award-winning director and cinematographer based in Columbus, OH, where he co-founded *Loose Films*, a boutique production company, in 2014. Recognized for his “assured debut” by the *The New York Times*, Segev’s first feature film, *POSER*, premiered at the 2021 Tribeca Film Festival and found theatrical distribution through Oscilloscope Laboratories. With *Poser*, Segev was also a 2020 Gotham Fiction Feature fellow. Co-directed with Segev’s long-time creative partner Noah Dixon, *Poser* screened at international film festivals in Germany, Poland South Korea, and England where the movie received an award for “Best Director” at the London Film Festival. *Poser* was also awarded the Grand Jury prize at the Florida Film Festival and the Nashville Film Festival.

Segev also served as the cinematographer and creative producer for *Character*, a documentary short that premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. *Character* was released in 2021 through *The New Yorker* and received the accolade of Vimeo Staff Pick.

Segev loves working with musicians. Recently, Loose Films collaborated with comedian and musician Kyle Gordon on the viral sensation, *Planet of the Bass*. In 2017, Segev directed and filmed *Down & Dirty*, an indie documentary that follows busking culture in New Orleans. Segev’s strong eye for visual storytelling began with his childhood passion for film photography, which he still pursues. In 2014, Segev received a B.A. in Cinema from Denison University in Granville, OH.



# ***Exhibition Goals***

- The exhibition invites visitors to think critically and compassionately about our individual and collective roles in society as we work to prevent genocide in all countries and promote human dignity for all people.
- The exhibition shares the indelible generational impacts war can leave on all beings—according to the Geneva Academy, there are 110 armed conflicts taking place across the globe. Please consider if any of them are necessary.
- Dorka Berger, a Holocaust survivor and the leading inspiration for the Looming exhibit said “These things that happened, it is forbidden that the world will forget. So, it will never happen again. If we are not going to talk about the Shoah, according to the situation in the world today, it can return, heaven forbid.” One of the most important goals of this exhibition is to remind visitors that we can weave a better future from the warp and weft of the past.



# *Invitation to Create*

**Looming in the Shadows of Lodz** features the work of three Americans inspired by a family trip to Poland to research their family history. Employing narrative and visual storytelling through representation and abstraction, the artists present their family's migration and wartime legacy in this multi-media exhibition.

In challenging times, art can serve as an educational catalyst. **Looming in the Shadows of Lodz** illustrated how artists interpret history through a personal lens. Have there been incidents in your family history that you would like to explore by creating a visual narrative? Think about the stories your family tells that make you who you are. Create an artwork that shares this memory.



# ARTtalk

## Film screening

**Ori Segev**

*Looming in the Shadows of Lodz*  
&  
*Marching All Night*

TCVA Lecture Hall

5 PM

## Gallery Walk through with Artists

**Leslie Starobin and Tamar Segev**

*Looming in the Shadows of Lodz*

Hodges Gallery

6:30 PM (following the film screening)

*Selected  
works in the  
exhibition*



Limanowskiego 48, Łódź Ghetto.



ALL the Jews from Łódź were settled in Bałuty.

May 1, 1940 began four horrible years in the ghetto. We had one room on the third floor. There was no running water. No toilets, only in the yard. There were no trees. No greenery.... **80 years.**

Dorka

Leslie Starobin

*A Tree Grows in Bałuty*, 2021, Hahnemühle Museum Etching Paper



Ori Segev  
*Film Stills from Looming in the Shadows of Lodz, 2024*



**Tamar Segev**

*Limanowskiego 48, Lodz, Poland, June 2, 2019, Number 2, 2020,*

**Charcoal, graphite, pastel, oil, thread, and canvas**



**Tamar Segev**

*Limanowskiego 48, Lodz, Poland, June 2, 2019, Number 5, 2021,*

**Oil, graphite, pastel, thread, and canvas**

# Resources

[Leslie Starobin / Website](#)

[Leslie Starobin Instagram / @lesliestarobin](#)

[Jewish Boston / Local Artist Leslie Starobin  
Explores Jewish Exile and Immigration](#)

[Tamar Segev / Website](#)

[Tamar Segev Instagram / @tssegev](#)

[Ori Segev / Website](#)

[Loose Films](#)

[Ori Segev Instagram / @shootinloose](#)

[App State / Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies](#)

[App State / 22nd Annual Martin and Doris Rosen Symposium](#)

[United States Institute of Peace](#)

[Council on Foreign Relations / Center for Preventative Action](#)

[Council on Foreign Relations](#)

[Council on Foreign Relations / Global Conflict Tracker](#)

[United Nations / Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet](#)

# Resources

**United Nations / Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet**

**ACLU / American Civil Liberties Union**

**United Nations / Office on Genocide Prevention and the  
Responsibility to Protect**

**International Crisis Group / Preventing War. Shaping Peace.**

**Save the Children**

**Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

**World Citizen Government / How do we stop war?**

**American Historical Association**

**allmep / Alliance for Middle East Peace**

**Jewish Voice for Peace: URGENT: Demand a ceasefire now**

**ICAN / 2017 Nobel Peace Prize**

**Institute for Economics & Peace**

**NTI / Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)**

**International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War**

# *Appalachian State University Campus Resources*

**UNC Policy 1300.8**

**Appalachian's Facility Use Policy**

**Academic Affairs**

**Office of Access and Equity: Equal Opportunity**

**Board of Trustees Resolution on the Affirmation of Freedom of  
Speech at Appalachian State University**

**Office of the Dean of Students**

**Office of Diversity**

**Intercultural Student Affairs**

**University Ombuds Office**

**App State Police Department**

# *Free Speech Responsible Officers*

## **Free speech and expression at App State**

Jeff Cathey  
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs  
studentaffairs@appstate.edu

Jamie Parson  
Provost & Exec VC-Academic Affairs  
Acting Senior Vice Provost  
diversity@appstate.edu

## **Freedom of Speech Resolution**

This Freedom of Speech Resolution was adopted and approved by the Board of Trustees on June 23, 2023.

The views expressed by the artists are not the views held by the Turchin Center or Appalachian State University.

The Board of Trustees at Appalachian State University is committed to institutional neutrality and academic freedom, and to freedom of expression as indicated in the University's Free Speech and Expression statement.





THANK  
YOU

FROM THE TURCHIN CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University engages visitors from the university, community, nation and beyond in creating unique experiences through dynamic and accessible exhibition, education, outreach and collection programs. These programs inspire and support a lifelong engagement with the visual arts and create opportunities for participants to learn more about themselves and the world around them.

SHARE YOUR WORK WITH US AT #TCVAATHOME !

**Appalachian**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

TCVA.ORG