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**Public art talk on painter Gershon Iskowitz who survived Auschwitz and became one of Canada's most acclaimed artists and cultural philanthropists. On April 1, 2019, four leading art historians discuss the life and legacy of this extraordinary Canadian.**



**TORONTO, ON** — A few days after teenaged Gershon Iskowitz (1920 or 1921–1988) was accepted into the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, the Nazis invaded Poland. As a Jew, Iskowitz was imprisoned at Auschwitz and then Buchenwald concentration camps, where he drew as a means of resilience. Following the war, he immigrated Toronto where a new chapter of his life as one of the city's most influential artists was to begin.

On April 1, 2019, to mark the release of the newly published online art book *Gershon Iskowitz: Life & Work* four art historians—Sara Angel, Ihor Holubizky, David Moos, and Georgiana Uhlyarik—pay tribute to the man, his art, and his legacy. "The talk will reveal not only how Iskowitz created some of the most important artistic documents of the Holocaust, but also how he became a renowned abstract painter, and founded the Gershon Iskowitz Prize, which is now the country's most important visual arts award of its kind," says Sara Angel, Founder and Executive Director of the Art Canada Institute.

**David Moos**, art advisor, author, and curator, knew Iskowitz personally. He is the son of Walter Moos—owner of the legendary Moos Gallery in Toronto that represented Iskowitz alongside Canadian, American, and European artists, including Pablo Picasso and Marc Chagall.

**Ihor Holubizky**, author of the newly released *Gershon Iskowitz: Life & Work*, will speak to Iskowitz's artistic renown, and his status as one of the most distinctive painters in Canadian art. "Iskowitz followed a different path," says Holubizky, "and there is no indication that new trends in art were of interest to him. None of his works fit neatly into any defined category—Canadian or otherwise."

**Georgiana Uhlyarik**, Fredrik S. Eaton Curator at the Art Gallery of Ontario, will address Iskowitz's legacy through his founding of the prestigious \$50,000 Gershon Iskowitz Prize which has been won by some of the country's most renowned contemporary artists, including, Shuvina Ashoona, Shary Boyle, Michael Snow, General Idea, and Rebecca Belmore.

**Sara Angel**, Founder and Executive Director of the Art Canada Institute will moderate the discussion.

**Gershon Iskowitz: Life & Legacy** begins at 7:00PM on Monday April 1, 2019 at the Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles St. W., Toronto. Pay what you can. Seating is free and on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a seat, please visit <https://aci-iac.ca/events/gershon-iskowitz-life-and-legacy>.

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#### ABOUT THE ART CANADA INSTITUTE

The Art Canada Institute (ACI) is a non-profit research organization based at Massey College, University of Toronto. Its Canadian Online Art Book Project—a program that since 2014 has released over 30 books, all available free of charge in both French and English—publishes on key topics in Canadian art history. The ACI is the only national institution whose mandate is to promote the study of an inclusive, multi-vocal Canadian art history to as broad an audience as possible within Canada and internationally.

#### IMAGES

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