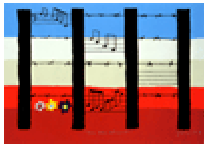


THE STORY OF THE PAINTING MADE BY FRANCO COSTA TO COMMEMORATE THE 50 YEARS OF THE END OF THE HOLOCAUST



In 1992 Franco Costa met the Israeli's Premier Rabin in Washington D.C., who committed the artist to make the original of Never More Holocaust to be given to His Holiness the Pope John Paul II. At the beginning of 1994 a very good friend of mine, Dr. Otto Galambos took over this project and asked to create this important image depicting one of the greatest tragedies of this

century: the Holocaust.

The fact that I am a Roman Catholic and Otto is Jewish, and a survivor of the Holocaust, intrigued and challenged me even more so to study this project in order to obtain the proper visual image.

The concert of Gilbert Levine and the Royal London Philharmonic Orchestra, which was held at the Vatican in the Sala Nervi last April, enabled me to better understand and express my deepest feelings towards this part of history. As a result of these influences, I was inspired to paint Never More, an everlasting reminder and symbol of this horrific devastation of life, which must never be forgotten throughout the world nor must ever occur again.

On November 9, 1994 in Rome, Dr. Otto Galambos dedicated the original acrylic painting to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, who blessed it in front of 15,000 people representing different organizations and religions from all over the world. His Holiness congratulated Otto for his heroic efforts in helping many Jews and Christian priests in Hungary, Otto homeland, to escape from the terrible Nazis. He also gave recognition to the other Holocaust survivors for their strength and courage.

Cardinal Cassidy, the President of the "Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews" expressed his approval of the image. After due reflection, the Cardinal and His Holiness the Pope, decided the painting would be hung in the offices of the Vatican. This is a great honour to me, as the Pope is gifted daily with many paintings, and he seldom accepts them.

A limited edition of two hundred silk-screens have been printed as limited editions of the original image. They are printed on a special 600gr. multimateric paper with relief colours, 100x70 cm and are of the finest quality.