

As an artist, I am expressing my feelings in clay and I documented the history of the Holocaust in my work. As a survivor from Slovakia, I focused my work on WWII and the Holocaust. Through the years I did 50 Holocaust related sculptures. I published an art book "The Agony of the Holocaust" that is available on my website www.gabriellakarin.com

When the Pandemic started, I felt secluded in my home and aware of the fact that it will not go away quickly. I decided that I must have a goal that will keep me busy for a longer time. I was invited for Yom ha Shoah by Ronald Lauder to Krakow to celebrate the 75th liberation of Auschwitz. Ambassador Lauder invited 120 survivors with a companion from all around the world. We were 3 people from Los Angeles area. It was the year 2020 in January. I took my grandson Ben with me. On the trip we had a lot of time to converse, and Ben asked me thousands of question about my family that he never met. I was describing every person, the relation to my parents and cousins. At the end of the trip Ben commented that since I am the only one in the family that remembers all the members, I should write a book. I just brushed it away, as I am not a writer. Sitting in my home, cooped up and isolated from the outside world I felt that being by myself in my own home, this will be a long time before the world will be normal again. I knew that I got my training during the Holocaust when I was in hiding for 9 months. I knew I must have something that will occupy my mind. I heard in my mind Ben's words to write a book about my life. I had no idea how to start. I started to collect family

pictures, put them in order and describing everybody. Working 12 hours a day, being completely immersed in writing the book. I finished it in 2 months. On my 90 birthday I was speaking at HMLA happily holding the first copy of my book. "TRAUMA, MEMORY, AND THE ART OF SURVIVAL".

In the meantime the pandemic was raging around me. I did not see anyone. Trying to be in my home by myself and working on sculptures. The pandemic needed to be documented and I did a series of pandemic sculptures. As an artist I feel I am documenting the happenings of our lives.

Now I am at a stage of seeing the beauty of flowers, trees, and nature. I am discovering plants that are not existing anymore, flowers that are making us feel good and showing the beauty of our planet. I already added one more sculpture about the Holocaust, "In Memoriam" and I am working on a sculpture about the pandemic.

The everyday life is giving me inspiration to do art and educate people about happenings in today's world and how extremely important it is to have education in schools about the history, and not only about the Holocaust history but also about the injustice in the world history before and after the Holocaust. The world must be taught about the facts that happened to human beings. Together we must fight for the education that explains the injustice of the past so it should not happen in the present or in the future.

It doesn't matter what color our skin is, or what color your eyes are, or what color your hair is - we are all the same people. We don't have to love everybody, but we must respect every person on this earth. We all have the right to be here.