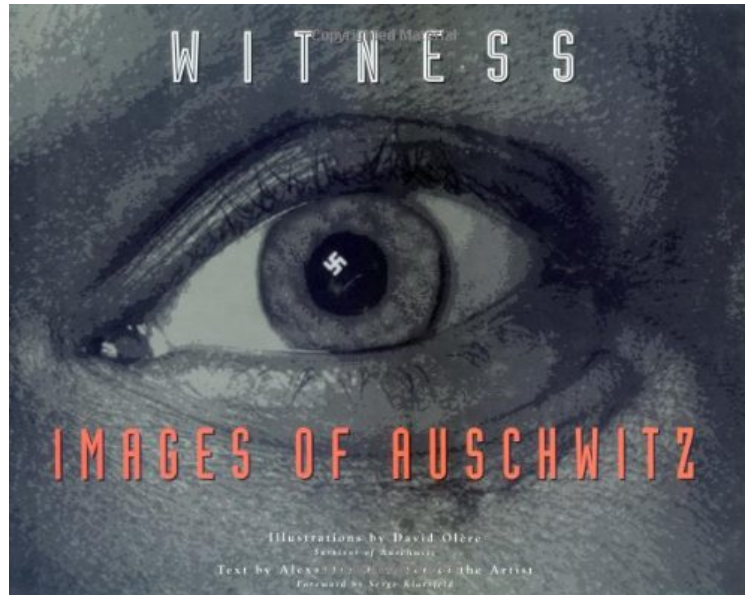


(Mobile book) Witness: Images of Auschwitz

## Witness: Images of Auschwitz

*David Oler*

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#1234551 in BooksColor: Other 1998-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .75 x 10.97 x 8.79l, 1.70 #File Name: 094103769X112 pages | File size: 49.Mb

**David Oler : Witness: Images of Auschwitz** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Witness: Images of Auschwitz:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Amazing drawings and the narrative is incredibleBy P. BlevinsWitness: Images of Auschwitz is by Alexandre Oler, son of the artist, and illustrated by David Oler, Survivor of Auschwitz. It is a difficult book to read and to look at. The illustrations were drawn by David Oler right after his liberation from Auschwitz. He was one of the few surviving members of the Sonderkommando. Davids drawings and paintings are horrific reminders of what happened to Jews in Auschwitz. The drawings are so haunting and so beautiful it is difficult to look at them and yet difficult not to look at them. His original drawings and paintings in this book are in Yad Vashem and the Ghetto Fighters House Museum in Israel. Eighteen oil paintings are on display at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City while other paintings are in various museums in France. This book is a tribute to him and his works as well as to his story and the story of millions of Jews who suffered under the Nazi regime.The poems and written material accompanying the drawings and paintings was were written by his son, Alexandre Oler. Through his words, the drawings become more alive and the feelings expressed are quite similar to those portrayed by other survivors. In a few words, he expresses a multitude of meanings and emotions. The book was brilliantly put together by Alexandre.I feel privileged to have read this book and to have seen Auschwitz through David Oleres eyes and feel the emotions through Alexandre Olers words. It is a terrific tribute to those who lost their lives in Auschwitz.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. You can't "rate" this book.By CowgirlThe drawings and verses in this well made book cannot be rated on a love to hate scale. As soon as I opened this book, other emotions come to the surface: Sorrow, shame, grief and anger. I'm unable to assimilate the book from cover to cover at one time. I must be put aside until I can stand to look at it again.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book received in perfect shape and on time!By reglisseGreat Book! Fantastic testimony to the atrocities

of WWII. This painter is just amazing and should deserve better recognition. We received the book in excellent condition and the timing was perfect. Thank you!

This book is a legacy of enormous historical importance. At a time when many are actually denying the existence of the Holocaust, we have decided to publish for the first time this important visual eye witness evidence. David Olre, the only artist to survive imprisonment in Auschwitz, drew upon his own experiences as a laborer in the gas chambers, furnaces, and examination rooms to illustrate what actually went on within the crematorium and other places that no photographer entered until after the war. The drawings are accompanied by a moving text written by Olre's son, based on his father's experiences. This book will make you feel like an eye witness yourself. This work is published so that those who never experienced the Holocaust and all future generations may witness themselves, through Olre's eyes, the terrible cruelty of which political systems with unchecked power are capable. Some of the images in this book are very disturbing. We do not recommend it for children. An estimated six million Jews were systematically exterminated by Hitler's SS during World War II. This slaughter took place at several camps throughout Europe. Primary among these was Auschwitz II at Birkenau, Poland, where more than a million people were sent to the gas chambers, most of them Jews. The SS offered a few prisoners the chance to work in exchange for a little more time to live, but this usually was only a slower form of death. Only about one out of a hundred people deported to Auschwitz survived the war. One of the cruelest forms of forced labor was the corps of Sonderkommando, prisoners who had to work in the crematoria. They were constantly driven to work faster to keep up with the intense schedule of slaughter. When they were too exhausted to satisfy their persecutors, they were sent into the gas chambers themselves. The typical life span of these unfortunates ranged from a few hours to a few weeks. Only a handful of Sonderkommando survived the war. One of these was David Olre, a Jewish artist who was born in Poland, but had emigrated to France. He was arrested in 1943 and managed to survive nearly two years at Auschwitz, primarily because the SS desired to make use of his artistic and linguistic skills. While his wife and son hid out in France, Olre witnessed unbelievable sights never recorded by cameras: the rape and murder of young women; live babies being thrown into burning trenches; Jews, Christians, and Communists celebrating Christmas together at Auschwitz, a Catholic priest who elected to go to the gas chambers himself rather than abandon a young Jewish boy whose care had been charged to him; and worst of all, the horrendous work in Crematorium III. As soon as he was liberated, Olre began to sketch scenes, portraits, and diagrams from memory. These constitute the only visual record of much of what went on at Auschwitz. His drawings were used by those charged with investigating the Holocaust and now hang in museums around the world.

Witness: Images of Auschwitz is a haunting collection of illustrations and recollections that portray the horrors of that death-camp. David Olre, a survivor of the Auschwitz, was assigned as a laborer to the gas chambers and furnaces from 1943-1945, and saw the horrors that took place there. Stylistically, David Olre's work is fairly representational. In some ways, it is reminiscent of the drawing style of Pontormo; however, much of the work has an expressionistic edge to it. While not as emotionally seething (nor nearly as abstract) as the art of Munch and some of the other German expressionists, there is a quiet darkness here. And, like the expressionists, for Olre, pictorial form is inseparable from the pain and stress of experience—very appropriate for a subject as dark and disturbing as the Holocaust. While the content of the drawings and paintings are a firsthand account and documentation of Nazi atrocities, this work is beautifully executed and serves as a grim reminder of the genocide reigned upon the Jewish race. The images of Witness are accompanied by text that Olre's son, Alexander Olre, assembled based upon his father's memoirs. To be sure, the read is as compelling and memorable as the book's illustrations. -- From Independent Publisher  
From the Publisher "essential to understanding the Holocaust" Elie Wiesel "Stunning!" Trevor Witcher, Gazelle Books "I am speechless!" Pnina Rosenberg, Curator, Ghetto Fighters House "The read is as compelling and memorable as the book's illustrations." Independent Publisher  
About the Author Alexandre Oler was born in Paris in 1930. He experienced the persecution of Jews and himself was forced to wear the yellow star of David as a schoolboy. When his father was arrested, he went into hiding, assisted by the Jewish underground. His mother also went into hiding. The family was reunited after the war and Alexandre resumed his education, which had been interrupted at the age of ten. He went on to establish a successful career in business and finance. After his father's death in 1985, Alexandre donated his father's drawings and sculptures to various museums and reluctantly became a noted lecturer on the Holocaust. He has a son, Marc Abraham, by his first wife. Alexandre and his second wife, Alice, live today in Nice, on the Riviera. Biography Of David Olre 1902 Born in Warsaw on January 19. 1918 Already a trained artist, he left Poland for Danzig and Berlin, where he exhibited woodcuts on the Kantstrasse. 1921 Employed by the Europäische Film Allianz in Berlin as a painter, sculptor, and assistant architect. 1923 Moved to Paris, where he designed sets, costumes, and publicity posters for films, in particular for Paramount Pictures. 1930 Married Juliette Ventura. They had a son, Alexandre. 1937 Moved to Noisy le Grand. 1943 Arrested by the French police on February 20 and interned in Drancy transit camp. Deported from Drancy to Auschwitz on March 2 in transport number 49, with some one thousand other Jews. Worked as a trench digger, then as a Sonderkommando of Krematorium III, emptying the gas chambers and burning corpses in the ovens. 1945 Sent on death march to Mauthausen on January 19. From there he was transferred to the Melk camp on

the Danubien Liberated from Ebensee camp in Austria by the U.S. Army on May 6. Immediately began his sketches of the horrors he had witnessed. 1985 Died in Paris on August 21. Although he was 83, he died not from disease, but from despair at hearing university "intellectuals" say that the genocide which he personally witnessed did not exist and was mere Zionist propaganda.