



Holocaust Representation: Art within the Limits of History and Ethics

By Berel Lang

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS, United States, 2003.

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*****. Since Theodor Adorno's attack on the writing of poetry

after Auschwitz, artists and theorists have faced the problem of

reconciling the moral enormity of the Nazi genocide with the

artist's search for creative freedom. In Holocaust

Representation, Berel Lang addresses the relation between ethics

and art in the context of contemporary discussions of the

Holocaust. Are certain aesthetic means or genres out of bounds

for the Holocaust? To what extent should artists be constrained

by the actuality of history-and is the Holocaust unique in raising

these problems of representation? The dynamics between

artistic form and content generally hold even more intensely,

Lang argues, when art's subject has the moral weight of an

event like the Holocaust. As authors reach beyond the standard

conventions for more adequate means of representation,

Holocaust writings frequently display a blurring of genres. The

same impulse manifests itself in repeated claims of historical as

well as artistic authenticity. Informing Lang's discussion are the

recent conflicts about the truth-status of Benjamin Wilkomirski's

memoir *Fragments* and...



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