

**THE FRITZ ASCHER SOCIETY
FOR PERSECUTED, OSTRACIZED AND BANNED ART**



LIEBE UND VERRAT

Der Expressionist
Fritz Ascher
aus New Yorker
Privatsammlungen

**PROGRAM
REPORT
2024**



MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

I invite you to read about our activities in 2024. In these times of exploding Antisemitism and of growing hate for the “other”, our work is critical. So instead of celebrating our 10th anniversary with a party, we intensified our work teaching the past with empathy and in meaningful dialogue.

Art has the power to enlighten, uplift, and help people recognize our common humanity even when confronted by inhumanity. We were inspired by the artwork created by people who were persecuted for their identity or for their art by the German National Socialists and their European Allies 1933-1945. Learning about the strength and resilience of the artists and the moral and ethic values of those, who refused to be perpetrators or bystanders, helps guide our reflections and actions today.

To better serve our growing global community, our website can now be read in English, French, German and Spanish - try it out (<https://fritzaschersociety.org/>)!

We came together for 4 in-person events and 20 online events in our lecture series “Flight or Fight. stories of artists under repression.” Thanks to collaborations with our international network of scholars, institutions and organizations we were able to bring brand new research and a wide range of programs to our audience to discover, learn and discuss. Questions, thoughts and comments were also shared on our social media platforms, including YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and x.

We published two books and organized the exhibition “Love and Betrayal – The Expressionist Fritz Ascher from New York Private Collections” at Haus der Graphischen Sammlung in Freiburg (Germany). The exhibition was seen by a record number of visitors, and the catalogue publishes much new research and is just beautiful. Thank you, Jutta Götzmann, for a fabulous collaboration



We could not have done any of this work without our supportive Board members, and our many donors, partners and friends. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

With gratitude and warmest greetings,
Rachel Stern

MISSION

The Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art tells untold stories of artists marginalized and persecuted by the German Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945. By discussing, exhibiting and publishing their work, we commemorate their lives and artistic achievements and teach about the Holocaust. FAS furthers the understanding of the history of the 20th century and initiates an active dialogue about individuality and integrity in response to conditions of extreme duress and to political tyranny.

VISION

The Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art enriches the understanding of the history of the 20th century by introducing untold stories of artists persecuted for their personal or communal identity by the German Nazi regime. Our projects create a safe space that allows diverse audiences to discuss highly relevant topics in an environment that surpasses ethnic, cultural and religious differences. We encourage the embrace of otherness and openness towards the stranger, and ultimately help create a more empathic society.

Feedback from our audience

Susan: "I just wanted to let you know that I have been enjoying your presentations since Covid until now. This presentation today was fabulous. I just wanted to thank you so much for all that you do ... And, meeting you and thanking you personally for enriching my life as you have, would certainly be a highlight for me."

Nima: "This has been truly exceptional. A multidimensional eye-opener"



EXHIBITION

Love and Betrayal – The Expressionist Fritz Ascher from New York Private Collections

Haus der Graphischen Sammlung, Freiburg im Breisgau (Germany),
November 8, 2024 – March 2, 2025

The late Expressionist artist Fritz Ascher (1893-1970) survived two world wars and persecution by the National Socialist regime.

Thanks to a cooperation between the Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art, New York, the Augustinermuseum and the Museum für Neue Kunst, the Haus der Graphischen Sammlung in Freiburg presented his early work for the first time in a concentrated selection of graphic works from November 8, 2024 to March 2, 2025.

These included charcoal, graphite and ink drawings, as well as brightly colored gouache.

Mythological and literary, historical, and biblical themes demonstrate the breadth of Ascher's interests. He was always a keen observer of his time. Since 1916, he has explored the themes of love and betrayal in intimate drawings. The primal catastrophe of the First World War and the revolutionary unrest in Berlin led him to Christian-spiritual themes, which he radically reinterpreted. With his unique artistic voice, Ascher created expressive works on the Passion of Christ, the Last Judgment, and the figure of Bajazzo, the clown, whom he ultimately developed into his own life metaphor.

These works were complemented by Ascher's intense poems, which can be described as "unpainted pictures" and were created when the artist, persecuted by the National Socialists, had to hide in the basement of a Grunewald villa to escape deportation.

The exhibition was curated by Jutta Götzmann, Managing Director of the Freiburg Municipal Museums, and Rachel Stern, Director of the Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art, New York.

Many exhibition tours and programs accompanied the exhibition, including Rachel Stern's lectures "Fritz Ascher in Berlin: A Search for Traces" on November 10 at Augustinermuseum Freiburg, and "Love and Betrayal. The Jewish artist Fritz Ascher (1893-1970)" on November 14 at the Jewish Museum Frankfurt.

More than 11,000 visitors saw the exhibition - a record attendance for the museum.

And we published a substantial exhibition catalogue:

BOOKS



•Publisher : Michael Imhof Verlag GmbH & Co. KG;
First Edition (31 Oct. 2024)

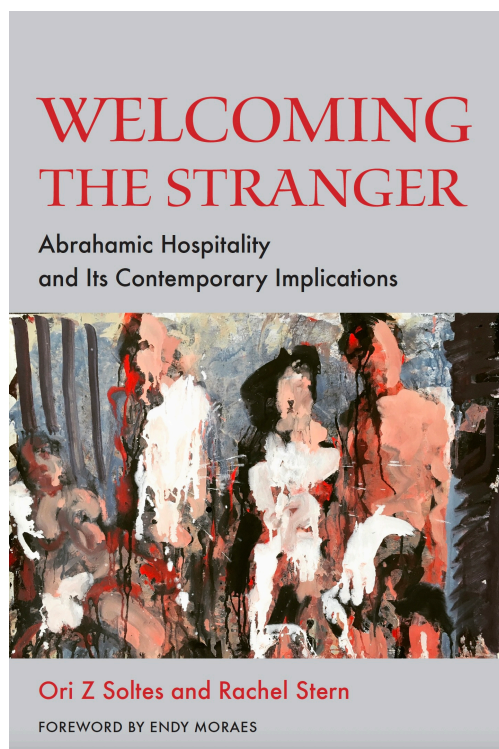
•Language : German

•Paperback : 208 pages

•ISBN-10 : 3731914468

•ISBN-13 : 978-3731914464

•Dimensions : 24 x 2 x 28 cm



•Publisher : Fordham University Press; 1st edition
(April 2, 2024)

•Language : English

•Paperback : 212 pages

•ISBN 1531507328

•ASIN : B0CJDPRR55

Amazon Best Sellers Rank:

○#8 in [Religious Studies - Ethics](#)

○#58 in [Emigration & Immigration](#)

BOOK TALKS

in New York, NY and in Washington, DC

We celebrated the publication of our book “Welcoming the Stranger. Abrahamic Traditions and Its Contemporary Implications” with in-person book talks at Fordham University in New York and at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

This book is a collection of thought-provoking essays exploring the theme of hospitality as a means of building bridges between different cultures and communities. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in interfaith dialogue, social justice, and creating a more inclusive society. Its contents could hardly be more relevant today.

Beginning with the story of Abraham's hospitality to the three strangers described in Genesis 18, the narrative explores both the theological evolution in and beyond the Abrahamic traditions of the principle of "welcoming the stranger," and its on-the-ground application from India to Germany in the past to America in the present.

Considered from a range of theological, cultural, legal, and political angles, the volume was discussed by its editors Ori Z Soltes, Georgetown University, and Rachel Stern, Fritz Ascher Society, New York.



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
THE SCHOOL OF LAW

INSTITUTE ON

**RELIGION, LAW &
LAWYER'S WORK**

fritz!

The Fritz Ascher Society
for Religious, Clerical and Barred Att

Monday, March 18, 6:00pm

Book Launch

Welcoming the Stranger: Abrahamic Hospitality and Contemporary Implications

With Editors

Ori Z Soltes, Georgetown University, and Rachel Stern, Fritz Ascher Society

**Fordham University School of Law
Conference Room 7-119
150 West 62nd Street
New York, NY 10023**

Register Here:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/>

Join us for an evening of stimulating conversation and refreshments as we celebrate the publication of *Welcoming the Stranger: Abrahamic Traditions and Contemporary Implications*. Advance copies of the book are available for purchase.

This book is a collection of thought-provoking essays exploring the theme of hospitality as a means of building bridges between different cultures and communities from a range of theological, cultural, legal, and political angles. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in interfaith dialogue, social justice, and creating a more inclusive society.

The handsomely illustrated volume will be discussed by its editors **Ori Z Soltes**, Georgetown University, Washington DC, and **Rachel Stern**, The Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art, New York.







We thank Fordham University's Center for Jewish Studies and Theology Department, and Peace Islands Institute New York for publicizing the event.

This event is generously sponsored by: **19** tenfourteen

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law.fordham.edu/lawreligion
https://fritzaschersociety.org

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

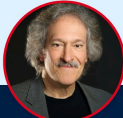

ABRAHAMIC TRADITIONS AND ITS CONTEMPORARY IMPLICATIONS

BOOK TALK WITH ORI SOLTES AND RACHEL STERN

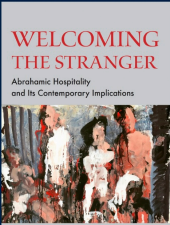
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

6:00PM - 7:30PM

MORTARA CENTER





Welcoming the Stranger, a collection of essays, explores hospitality and inclusion in Abrahamic traditions from historical, theological, and practical perspectives. It offers an enlightening and compelling discussion of what the Abrahamic traditions teach us regarding welcoming people we don't know. Join the Center for Jewish Civilization, Mortara Center for International Studies, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, and the Theology and Religious Studies Department for a conversation with authors Ori Soltes and Rachel Stern, refreshments, and a book signing.



WELCOMING THE STRANGER
 Abrahamic Hospitality and Its Contemporary Implications
 Ori Z. Soltes and Rachel Stern
 (introduced by David Weiss Halivni)

SPACE IS LIMITED!
REGISTER HERE:



VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS

“Identity, Art and Migration” (IAM)

(<https://migration.fritzaschersociety.org/>)

until February 27, 2027 (exhibition planned for 2028)

Responding to today’s unprecedented numbers of migrants, our virtual exhibition “Identity, Art and Migration” investigates the experience of seven Jewish European artists who were forced to abandon their country of origin, or remain in hiding for years, in response to Nazi policies in effect from 1933 to 1945. These six artists: Anni Albers, Friedel Dzubas, Eva Hesse, Rudi Lesser, Lily Renée and Arthur Szyk emigrated to the United States, while one, Fritz Ascher, stayed behind in Germany, hiding in a basement for three years. These artists’ lives and work address the multi-layered concept of identity and the particulars of its expression from slightly different angles. In scholarly essays, weekly virtual discussions and two virtual conferences between October 13, 2021 and January 5, 2022, and a multi-layered virtual exhibition launched in February 2022, we explored how these wrenching experiences affected their sense of who they were, and the art they made.

**Identity • Art
and Migration**

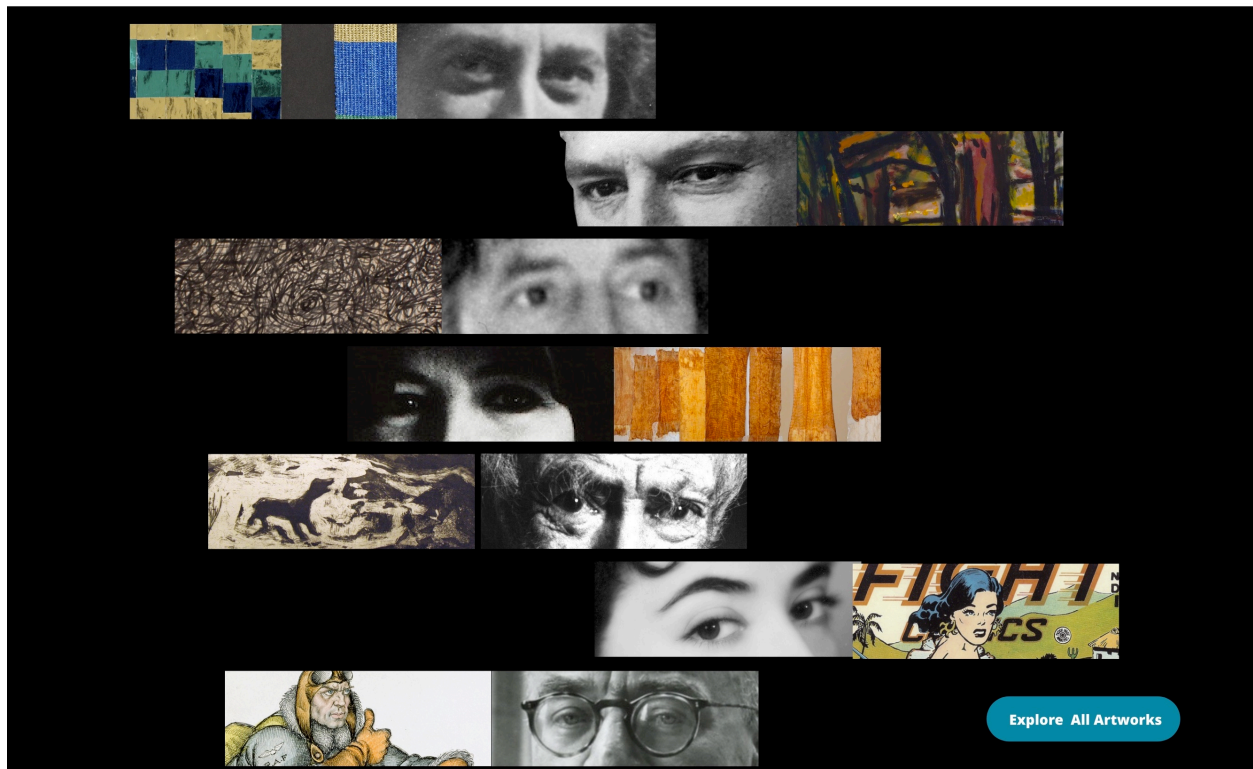
Artists

Artworks

Essays

Conversations

About

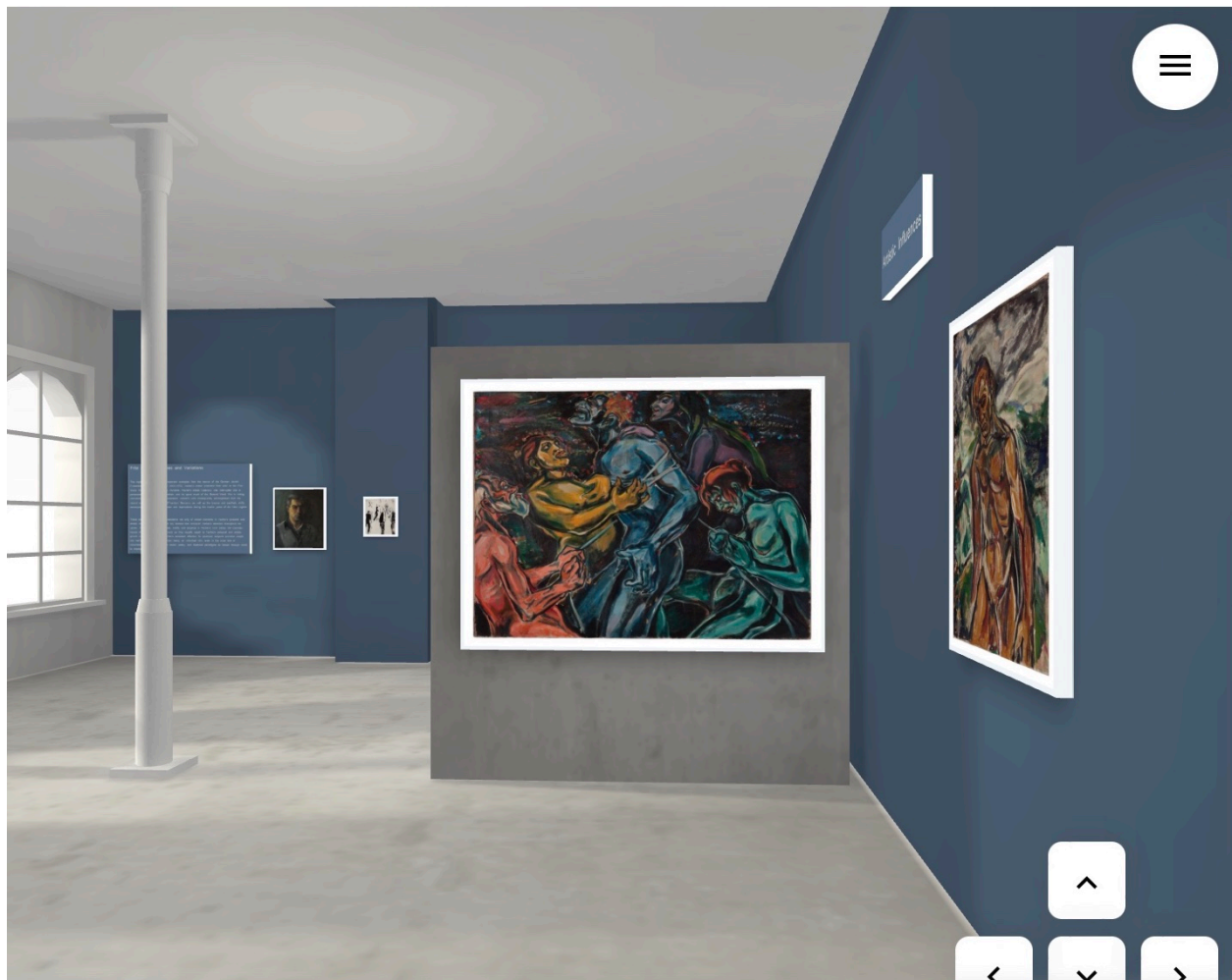


"Fritz Ascher: Themes and Variations"

(<https://fritzaschersociety.org/fritz-ascher-themes-and-variations/>)

until September 30, 2026

This exhibition allows a virtual tour of important examples from the oeuvre of the German Jewish Expressionist artist Fritz Ascher (1893-1970). These selected works are representative not only of critical moments in Ascher's personal and artistic development, but also of key themes that occupied Ascher's attention throughout his career. Through the links in every image description, and again on the website page dedicated to the exhibition, those key themes are explored in videos and interviews, photos and artworks, short introductions and scholarly texts.






VIRTUAL EVENTS

We continued the highly successful **online lecture series “Flight or Fight. stories of artists under repression,”** which investigates the untold stories of artists marginalized and persecuted by the German National Socialist regime and the context they lived in. All lectures were recorded and are available on our YouTube channel [@fritzaschersociety](#).




Thank you to the artists and their descendants and to the scholars who shared with us incredible artwork and inspiring life stories of creativity, determination, and resilience.



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The Fritz Hecker Society

Wednesday
January 24


"The New Man as Man Machine"
Book talk with Author Eckhart Gillen, Berlin



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The Fritz Hecker Society

Wednesday
January 31

"In Hitler's Munich." Book Talk with Author Michael Brenner, Munich and Washington DC



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Wednesday
February 14


The Art of Marc Klionsky (1927-2017): Shaping a Three-World Condition from Minsk to New York



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The Fritz Hecker Society

Wednesday
February 28

"I'm always on the go..." - The painter Franz Domscheit / Pranas Domšaitis (1880-1965)



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The Fritz Hecker Society

Wednesday
March 6


Traces of a Jewish Artist: The Lost Life and Work of RAHEL SZALIT (1888-1942)



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Wednesday
March 27

The Miraculous San Francisco Discovery of Ary Arkady Lochakov's Lost Art



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Wednesday
April 3

Bruno Schulz (1892-1942): An Artist, a Murder, and the Hijacking of History



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Wednesday
May 8, 7:00pm

"Let's Talk of Interesting People": The Story of Erna Friedländer (1890-1979)



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Wednesday
May 22

Steinberg before STEINBERG
Presentation by Mario Tedeschini Lalli



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Wednesday
June 19

Art and Internment. Heinz Henghes the Stowaway Sculptor



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Wednesday
July 10

"My verses are like dynamite"
Curt Bloch's Het Onderwater Cabaret



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The Fritz Hecker Society

Wednesday
July 24

George Grosz (1893-1959): The Stick Men

The Heckscher Museum of Art



**ESCAPE AND SURVIVAL
THROUGH ART**

Speaker: Eva de Jong-Duldig

Supported by:

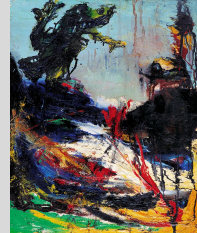
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**Tuesday
September 10**

**Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood
in Poland Before the Holocaust**



September 25, 12:00pm EDT online

**Misunderstandings and
Contradictions:
The Art and Life of
Jacqueline de Jong (1939-2024)**

Presentation by Ariella Wolens

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October 9, 12:00pm EDT online

**Otto Antoine (1865-1951):
"The Painter of Berlin"
between Compliance and Defiance**

Presentation by Kathleen Langone

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October 23, 12:00pm EDT online

**Sculpting a Life: Chana Orloff
during Occupation, Escape,
Exile, Return (1938-1949)**

Presentation by
Prof. Dr. Paula J. Birnbaum

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November 20, 12:00pm EDT online

**Felka Platek (1899-1944) -
Artist and Companion
of the Painter Felix Nussbaum**

Presentation by
Anne Sibylle Schwetter, Osnabrück

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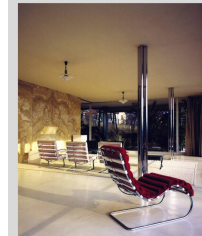


December 4, 12:00pm EST online

**Gertrud Kauders, Jewish Artist
from Prague (1883-1942):
Surprises, Enigmas,
Opportunities**

Presentation by Simon During
Brisbane (Australia)

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December 18, 12:00pm EST online

**Behind the Glass:
The Villa Tugendhat
and Its Family**

A book talk by Michael Lambek,
Toronto (Canada)

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SCREENINGS



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**Wednesday
June 5**

**From Auschwitz to Hollywood:
Jack Garfein, "THE WILD ONE"**



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**Monday
April 15**

**New York Theatrical Release Screening
with director Paula S. Apsell and NYU Prof. Avinoam J. Patt**



NY Jewish Film Festival

WORLD PREMIERE

**KAFKA'S
LAST TRIAL**

Followed by a conversation with author Benjamin Balint,
director Eliran Peled and moderator Daphne Markin

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 7 PM

Mazliew Meyerson JCC Manhattan | 334 Amsterdam Ave @ 75th Street

**KAFKA'S
LAST TRIAL**

A TRUE STORY BASED ON KAFKA'S WRITINGS