

Documenting History Through Art: The Work of David Labkovski (1906-1991)

Exhibit Dates: March 6, 2020 - March 26, 2020

**Leatherby Libraries Hall of Art: Exhibiting Art from the Chapman Community
Leatherby Libraries, First Floor**



David Labkovski was a narrative artist who wanted to bear witness to history through his work. This exhibit follows the course of his life in four stages. The exhibit begins with Labkovski's childhood and youth in Vilna (current day Vilnius, Lithuania). It continues with his experiences interned in a prison camp in Siberia in the Soviet Gulag system, then moves to his return to Vilna. He bears witness to the destruction of the city and the fate of the Jewish community under Nazi occupation. The exhibit concludes with his renewed sense of hope in his later years as a free man in Israel.

By sharing his work, his story, and the historical context that the art depicts, we too bear witness. Labkovski's work shares lessons of tolerance, individual responsibility in society, and the dangers of totalitarianism. His work elicits empathy as we confront the human toll of hatred, anti-Semitism and racism.

This exhibit is in partnership with the 21st Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest, organized by the Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education and the Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library.