

The Artist and the Holocaust

When people see my work they frequently ask why I have chosen the Holocaust as a subject. I chose the subject last spring after seeing a documentary called *Shoah*. I needed a subject for my research on the creative process, and this documentary kindled my interest in the Holocaust.

The more I worked with the subject, the more reasons I found to continue with it. Although I cannot pretend to have had the same experiences as the victims of the death camps, I seemed to become one with the subjects. I became the hanged man or the screaming woman.

As my work developed, I felt a compulsion to show it to everyone. Although my original intent, the tracking of the creative process, was enlightening, it became secondary to the emotion and content of my art.

As Helen Epstein writes in *Children of the Holocaust*, “Unless we start examining the Holocaust with our emotions, all we pass on to the future generations is numbers.” It is easy to read the number “millions” on a page, but when we realize that each one of the millions died a personal and horrible death, it is then that the Holocaust becomes a reality.

Roger Preston
from his Exhibition Statement



Sorrow and Comfort

Roger Preston



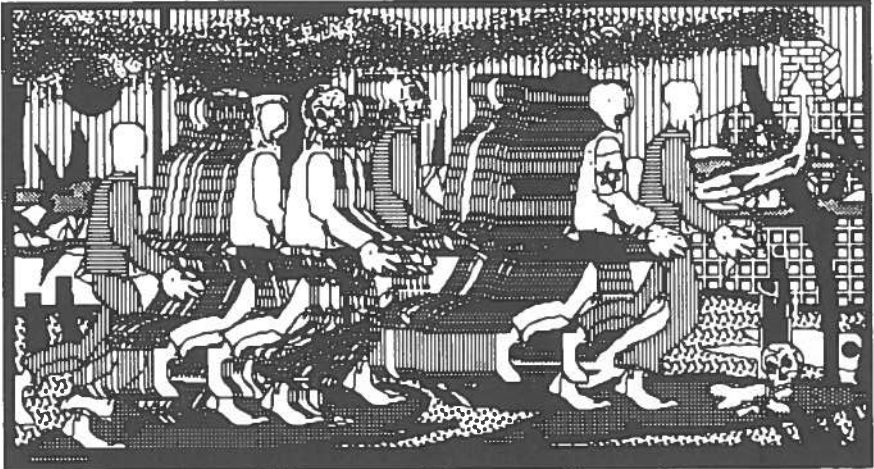
This Way That Way



Distress



At the Fence



S. S. Road to Heaven



Gassed



Roll Call

Roger Preston



Why

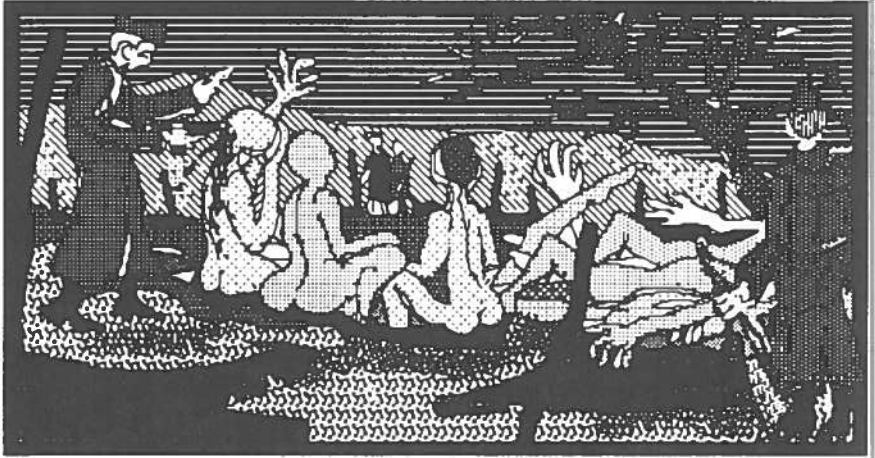


Waiting

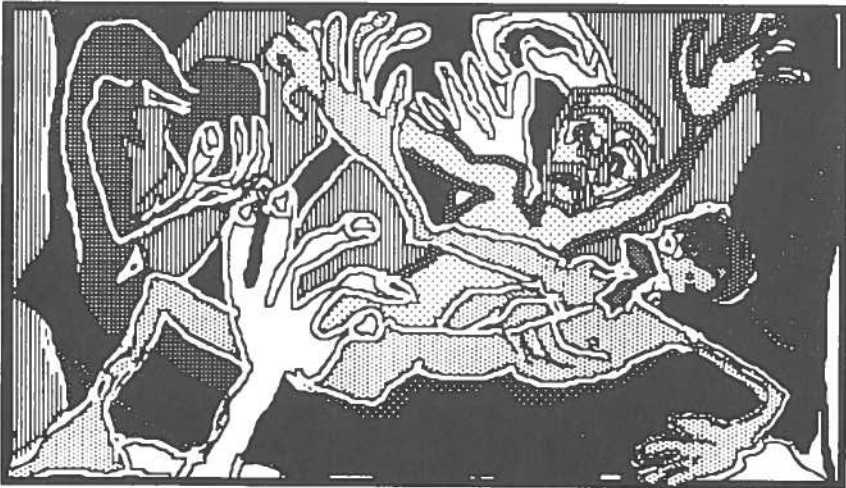
Roger Preston



Attempt



At the Pit



End of the Work Detail