

# *Auschwitz Remembered*

15 March saw the opening of a powerful exhibition by the famous painter, Zinoviy Tolkachev, depicting life in Hitler's notorious Nazi death camp. This exhibition held special poignancy for me, after my recent visit to Auschwitz (see Regional Explorer on Krakow, page 14). "Flowers of Auschwitz", as the collection is titled, is horrifying and disturbing in both its content and detail. ARTEast stumbled upon Zinoviy Tolkachev by accident, after seeing his work in a foreign catalogue. Tracing his family members, here in Kyiv, they found these charcoal and chalk pictures, many of which had been drawn in the early 60's. The exhibition, which will run until 3 April, is the first time the collection has been shown to the public. Guests at the opening were also given the opportunity of seeing a collection of very fragile original sketches and drawings, from Auschwitz and Majdanek. These formed part of an exhibition which took place in 1943, in the former USSR. One can only imagine how these sketches were conserved and smuggled out of the camps, in order to be exhibited 2 years before the war ended. What is just as amazing is that nearly 60 years later, these drawings are stunning photographic in detail, and heart-rending in content.

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