

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, 1943

Mini-Archive and Image Analysis Assignment

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Introduction

The Warsaw ghetto was the largest Jewish ghetto in German-occupied Europe. Established by the Germans in October 1940, and sealed that November, the ghetto housed approximately 400,000 Jews.

On April 19, 1943, the Warsaw ghetto uprising began after German troops and police entered the ghetto to deport its surviving inhabitants. Jewish insurgents (rebels) inside the ghetto resisted these efforts. This was the largest uprising by Jews during World War II and the first significant urban revolt against German occupation in Europe. By May 16, 1943, the Germans had crushed the uprising and deported surviving ghetto residents to concentration camps and killing centers.

This mini-archive includes examples of artwork and photographs depicting the Warsaw Ghetto, with a particular focus on the 1943 uprising.

Information Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

*There is an ongoing effort to memorialize the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland. One such effort is outlining the ghetto boundary on the ground so that the ghetto becomes a permanent part of the landscape of Warsaw. See an example [here](#).

Assignment

Look at all the images in the archive. Then, select **one** piece of artwork and **one** photograph. Remember, the artwork is created by non-Nazi artists and the photographs are taken by Nazi officials. Compare and contrast the examples you've chosen to complete an image analysis. You are allowed to complete additional research about the uprising and the examples you've chosen using the links at the end of the archive and other online sources. Remember to only use reputable sources please. Your analysis should be written in **three sections**, should include both images, and should answer specific questions for each section.

Click [here for the rubric](#).

Section 1

- What does the artwork depict?
- Whose perspective does the artwork seem to be taking? How do we know?
- What messages does the artwork communicate about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising?
- **Exceeds:** How is this art similar and different to other artwork in the mini-archive?
- **Exceeds:** What do we know about the creator of the art and its intended purposes? How does this information help us better understand the art you've chosen?

Section 2

- What does the photograph depict?
- Whose perspective does the photograph seem to be taking? How do we know?
- What messages does the photograph communicate about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising?
- **Exceeds:** How is this photo similar and different to other photos in the mini-archive?
- **Exceeds:** What do we know about Jürgen Stroop and his intended purposes for the photos? How does this information help us better understand the photo you've chosen?

Section 3

- How are the art and photo similar and different?
- How are the messages being communicated through the art and photo similar and different?
- What conclusions can we draw from these images about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising?
- **Exceeds:** What conclusions can we draw about the role of images in studying history and the ways we use images to tell stories and understand the past?
- **Exceeds:** If you were publishing a book about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, which image would you choose for the cover? Why would you make that choice?

ARTWORK

Drawings

The Repulsed Attack

Creator: Arthur Szyk
(Polish American, 1894-
1951)

Work Type: Drawing

Date: 1943

Source: Irvin Ungar



Staging Point

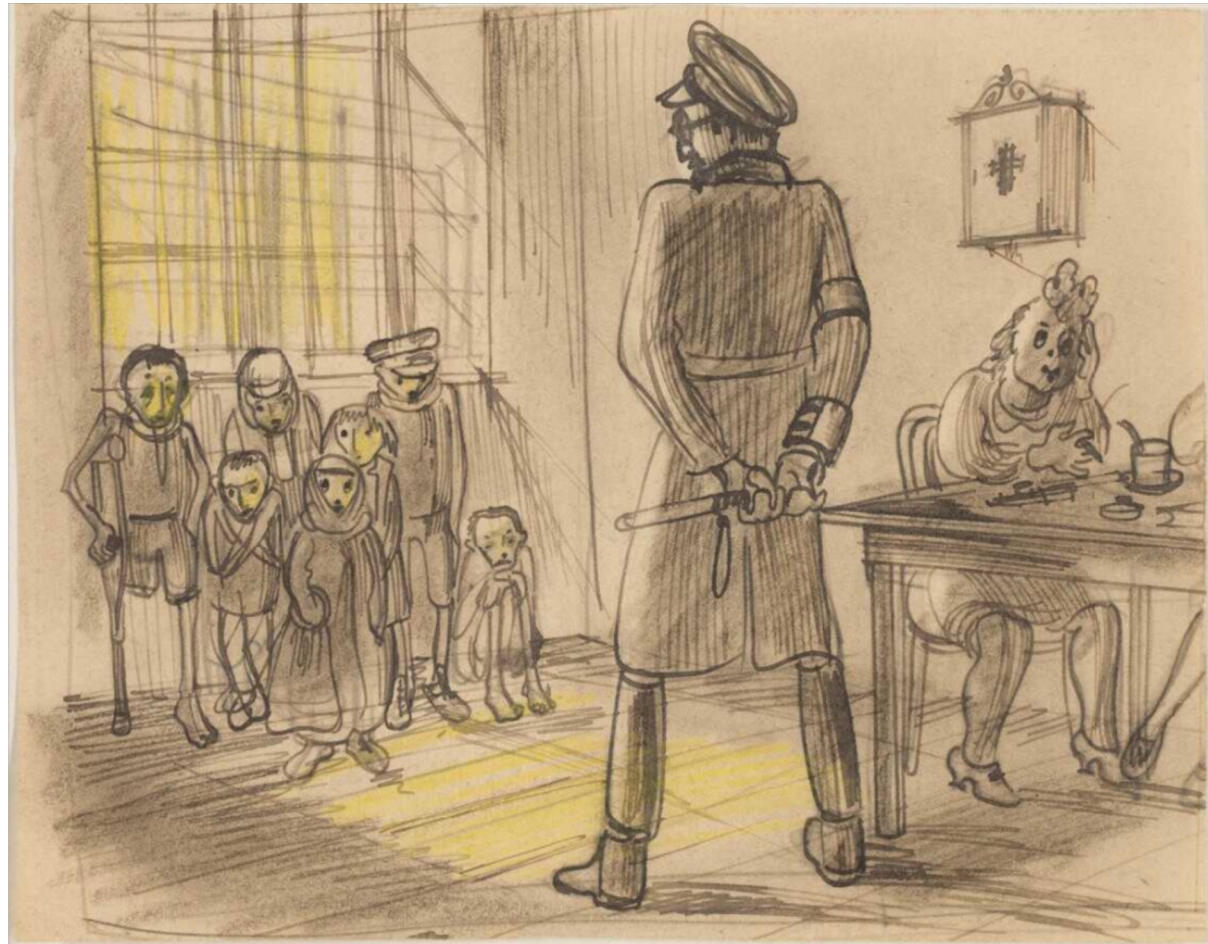
Creator: Rozenfeld

Work Type: Drawing

Date: 1941

Source: Jewish Historical Institute

**This is one of five drawings created by an unknown artist known as Rozenfeld from inside the Warsaw Ghetto. It does not depict the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. To see more of Rozenfeld's work, click [here](#).*



Tears of Rage

Creator: Arthur Szyk
(Polish American, 1894-
1951)

Work Type: Drawing

Date: 1942

Source: Irvin Ungar

**This does not,
specifically, depict the
1943 Warsaw Ghetto
Uprising*



To be Shot as Dangerous Enemies of the Third Reich

Creator: Arthur Szyk
(Polish American, 1894-
1951)

Work Type: Drawing

Date: 1943

Source: Irvin Ungar

**This does not,
specifically, depict the
1943 Warsaw Ghetto
Uprising*



Paintings

Samson in the Ghetto, also known as the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto

Creator: Arthur Szyk
(Polish American, 1894-
1951)

Work Type: Watercolor
Painting

Date: 1945

Source: Irvin Ungar



Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Creator: Arnold Belkin
(Canadian, 1930-1992)

Work Type: Painting
(Acrylic on Canvas)

Date: 1959

Source: The University of
Texas at Austin.



The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Creator: Christo Stefanoff (Bulgarian, 1898-1966)

Work Type: Painting (Oil on Canvas)

Date: 1960s

Source: artnet



Demonstration Warsaw (Warsaw Ghetto)

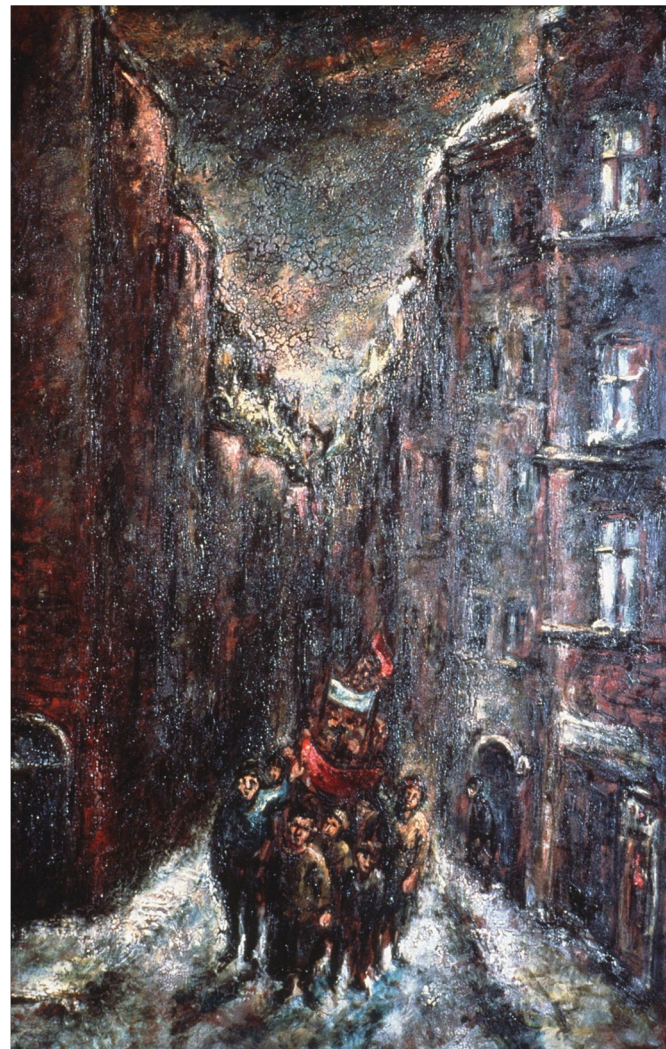
Creator: Elisabeth Bergner
(Austrian-British, 1897-1986)

Work Type: Painting (Oil on
Wood)

Date: 1940

Source: University of
California, San Diego

**This does not, specifically,
depict the 1943 Warsaw
Ghetto Uprising*



Sculptures/Monuments

Monument to the Ghetto Heroes (Warsaw Ghetto Monument), Uprising Memorial Face

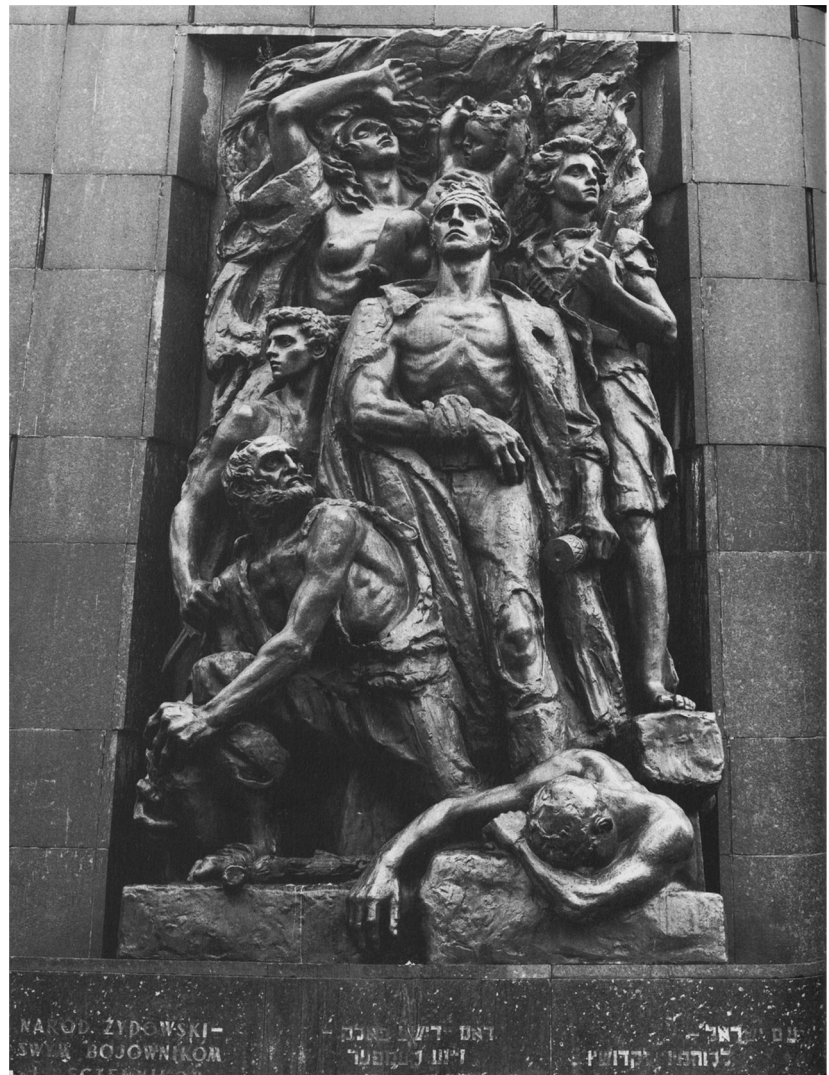
Creator: Nathan Rapoport (Polish, 1911-1987)

Work Type: Sculpture

Date: 1948

Source: The Art of Memory: Holocaust Memorials in History, James E. Young, ed., 1994

**It is common for visitors to leave flowers, wreaths, flags or other tributes at the foot of the memorial, especially on official commemorations. See this [link](#) for an example.*



Monument to the Ghetto Heroes (Warsaw Ghetto Monument), Granite relief of procession of deportees

Creator: Nathan Rapoport (Polish, 1911-1987)

Work Type: Sculpture

Date: 1948

Source: The Art of Memory: Holocaust Memorials in History, James E. Young, ed., 1994

**This image of a procession of exiled Jews is similar to imagery of Romans seen on the Arch of Titus, which includes symbols of the State of Israel and the Jewish diaspora. To learn more about the Arch of Titus, click [here](#).*



Monument to Mordechai Anielewicz, the fallen leader of the Warsaw Ghetto

Creator: Nathan Rapoport
(Polish, 1911-1987)

Work Type: Sculpture

Date: 1951

Source: The Art of
Memory: Holocaust
Memorials in History,
James E. Young, ed., 1994



Hand. Monument to the Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto

Creator: Alina
Szapocznikow (Polish,
1926-1973)

Work Type: Patinated
plaster, iron filings

Date: 1957

Source: Larry Qualls



PHOTOGRAPHS

These images come from the Stroop Report, a document created by SS General Jürgen Stroop to report on the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Please remember that many of these photos are likely staged for the SS. To learn more about the Stroop Report, click [here](#).

Capture

Jews captured during the
Warsaw ghetto uprising

Source: United States
Holocaust Memorial
Museum, courtesy of
National Archives and
Records Administration,
College Park



Jews captured by German troops during the Warsaw ghetto uprising.

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park



Captured Jewish Resistance
Fighters in Warsaw, Stroop
Report Original Caption:
"These bandits offered armed
resistance."

Source: United States
Holocaust Memorial
Museum, courtesy of
National Archives and
Records Administration,
College Park



Pictured here are German sappers assigned to blow up the bunkers where the Jews were hiding, together with Jews that had been removed from one of the bunkers; apparently on May 8, 1943.

Source: Yad Vashem Photo Archives



German soldiers capture Jews during the Warsaw ghetto uprising.

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park



Waffen SS soldiers
removing Jews from a
building where they had
taken refuge.

Source: Yad Vashem
Photo Archives



Hiding place discovered
during Warsaw ghetto
uprising, May 8, 1943

Source: United States
Holocaust Memorial
Museum, courtesy of
National Archives and
Records Administration,
College Park



Transfer

Jews captured during the
Warsaw ghetto uprising

Source: United States
Holocaust Memorial
Museum, courtesy of
National Archives and
Records Administration,
College Park



Jews that were captured during the uprising being taken to the Umschlagplatz (transfer point).

Source: Yad Vashem Photo Archives



Assembly

Suppression of the
Warsaw Ghetto Uprising:
Jews Forcibly Assembled
Near the Wall of the
Ghetto Await Deportation,
May 1943

Source: German History in
Documents and Images



Waffen SS soldier guards
Jews that were captured
during the uprising.

Source: Yad Vashem
Photo Archives



Jews that were captured during the liquidation of the ghetto are gathered in the Umschlagplatz (transfer point) on their way to being deported to the death camp.

Source: Yad Vashem Photo Archives



German soldiers interrogate Jews captured by German troops during the Warsaw ghetto uprising. Stroop Report Original Caption: "Search and Interrogation."

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park



Perpetrators

Jürgen Stroop, Warsaw,
Poland, April 19, 1943 - May
16, 1943.

Source: United States
Holocaust Memorial
Museum, courtesy of
National Archives and
Records Administration,
College Park



Suppression of the
Warsaw Ghetto Uprising,
April 22, 1943, Stroop
Report Original Caption:
“Fumigation of Jews &
bandits”

Source: German History in
Documents and Images



Photograph from the Stroop Report, Warsaw, Poland, April 19, 1943 - May 16, 1943.

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park



Page from the Stroop Report, reading “This is what the former Jewish residential quarter looks like after its destruction.”

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park



— Der sieht es im ehemaligen jüdischen Wohngebiet nach der Vernichtung an! —

Locations

Cooking facilities in a bunker prepared by the Jewish resistance for the Warsaw ghetto uprising, April 19, 1943 - May 16, 1943.

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park



Building on fire inside
the ghetto as viewed
from the Aryan side.

Source: Yad Vashem
Photo Archives



Stores that were destroyed during the bombardment of the ghetto.

Source: Yad Vashem
Photo Archives



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (Article): <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/warsaw-ghetto-uprising>

The Warsaw Ghetto (Animated Map): <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/animated-map/the-warsaw-ghetto>

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Map, 1943 (Image): <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/map/warsaw-ghetto-uprising-1943>

Benjamin (Ben) Meed Describes the Burning of the Warsaw Ghetto During the 1943 Ghetto Uprising (Video):
<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/oral-history/benjamin-ben-meed-describes-the-burning-of-the-warsaw-ghetto-during-the-1943-ghetto-uprising>

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (Video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjVQgDhMuis>

Artists of the Warsaw Ghetto (Article): <https://culture.pl/en/article/artists-of-the-warsaw-ghetto#popup#popup#popup>

Rozenfeld's Art Depicting the Warsaw Ghetto (Images): https://cbj.jhi.pl/?q=Rozenfeld&m=metadata&categories_filter=633535

Photographs from the Warsaw Ghetto (Images): https://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/warsaw_ghetto/index.asp

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Collection:
<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/tags/en/tag/warsaw-ghetto-uprising?page=1>

Jürgen Stroop and the Stroop Report (Article): https://www.yadvashem.org/odot_pdf/Microsoft%20Word%20-%206051.pdf