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Photos by Donna Agusti

**ABOVE:** Artist Hans Molzberger discusses the Holocaust Memorial Center exhibit with attendees.  
**BELOW:** Jonathan Quirk, of Oak Park, looks at work by artist Michael Roque Collins.



## Into the shadows

*HMC exhibit showcases work  
during Nazi control*

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FARMINGTON HILLS — A recent exhibit at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus showcases the

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# Exhibit

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Holocaust in a different light: from two artists' perspectives.

"Never Let It Rest: Sojourns in the Shadowlands," which opened Jan. 11 — and runs through May 3 — features artists Hans Molzberger and Michael Roque Collins.

Molzberger, who grew up in the south of Germany after World War II, and Collins, who grew up in the racial upheaval of the South, spoke at the Jan. 11 opening about their mixed media installation to about 50 attendees.

Collins said the duo decided to collaborate on this project after 2003, and visited Europe to conduct research on their work.

"I went to Poland, and it is the darkest place on earth I have ever witnessed," Collins said. "You can't go there as a visual artist and not be completely engaged in the possibilities of what came before you; what losses were there; and I think that experience ... was very impactful for us."

The exhibit features large-scale paintings and sculptures, ceramics, photography, video and found objects relating to Germany, Poland and the small town of Salzwedel in the Saxony-Anhalt region of Germany during the time of Nazi control, according to a press release.

Both artists have independently and collaboratively created art concerned with the Holocaust in Germany and Poland.

"We have found the exhibits using multiple mediums like art and video allows it to reach a much broader audience," said Holocaust Memorial Center Executive Director Stephen M. Goldman in the press release. "'Never Let It Rest' fulfills this goal, and we look forward to its display and the visit from the artists themselves."

Goldman said during the event that the collection of work, which has been years in the making, is "so deeply emotional."

"It is not a photograph of a bunch of dead bodies," he added. "It isn't the stuff you see on newsreels and actualities; it is an artists' understanding of this."

Molzberger grew up in a family and town that embraced art, especially ceramics. But he left home at 17 years old.

"There was a lot in the background about anti-Semitism and Jews in this village," he said.

He also talked about how a lack of Jewish people in his area growing up struck him.

"Later, I noticed something was wrong with this village," he said. "I found out about the history of this village: my father's family was against the Hitler regime."

Collins added that a "palpable energy" was always felt in his town where he was surrounded in a city filled with racism.

He said he turned his feelings into works of art.

"Art is always about ideas, it is about life, and the human condition," he said. "Though I wasn't born in Germany, I was born in the south with a possibly less vehement form of racism at root, but it still deals with how people treat people," he said.

West Bloomfield resident Carolyn Tisdale, who toured the exhibit, said she attended because she is interested in art in general.

Tisdale, who will also be in Poland this spring to participate in an event called "March of the Living," a march from Auschwitz to Birkenau, said the exhibit is really moving.

"It is very emotional to see how they depicted these scenes," she said. "The paintings have a real visual depth to them," she said. "It brings different dimension to the show."

The exhibit is supported by Susan Malinowski and Gary Shapiro, and Nancy and James Grosfeld.

The Holocaust Memorial Center is located at 28123 Orchard Lake Road.

For more information, go to [www.holocaustcenter.org](http://www.holocaustcenter.org).

Call Staff Writer Sherri Kolade at (586) 498-1046.



Walking through a tunnel, by artist Hans Molzberger — which recalls the roofs of the many railcars used by the Nazis to transport their victims — is Bela Chopp and Michael Chopp, of Southfield.

Photo by Donna Agusti

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