

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jeff Jones, Marketing & Communications Manager

414.390.5783 | [JeffJ@MilwaukeeJewish.org](mailto:JeffJ@MilwaukeeJewish.org)

Media invited to member preview reception on Feb. 4; register to me by 4 p.m. same day.  
Media exhibit tours and interview opps available daily during run of exhibit.

## FDR's 'soldier in art' featured in original-curated exhibit *Freedom and justice, past and present*

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin— Dubbed a “soldier in art” by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, an eclectic survey of work by a leading mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century artist and activist that resonates with today’s human rights and immigrant struggle will be on display Feb. 7-May 15 at Jewish Museum Milwaukee, 1360 N. Prospect Ave.

“Arthur Szyk: The Art of Illumination” — an original-curated exhibit — demonstrates the capacity of art to make a difference by encouraging engagement and discussion of social, political, religious and cultural issues.

Szyk is considered the greatest 20<sup>th</sup> Century illuminator working in the style of 16<sup>th</sup> Century miniature art painters and one of the leading political cartoonists of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The exhibit explores his career as a foremost political caricaturist in America during World War II when he emerged as a figure of provocation and an advocate for liberty vilifying the Axis Powers.

The artist's graphic images graced the covers of leading magazines, such as Time, Collier's and Esquire. Szyk's work had a common theme: freedom, not tyranny; justice, not oppression. His work helped persuade public opinion for the United States to join the conflict in Europe. Current rhetoric about Muslims, Syrians and Hispanics are eerily reminiscent of the propaganda against Jews in Szyk's time.

The exhibit's four themes address art as propaganda, democracy/freedom, civil rights, and Zionism/the State of Israel. Special programs and lectures will allow the public in-depth opportunities to engage in these timeless ideas; learn more at [JewishMuseumMilwaukee.org/Events](http://JewishMuseumMilwaukee.org/Events) or call 414.390.5730.

A preview reception on Feb. 4 (\$8 members; \$14 non-members) will include live music by the Brew City Big Band and exhibit tours.

JMM, a program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (til 7 p.m. third Thursday of the month); Friday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Saturday, closed; Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m. Admission: adults, \$7; seniors, \$5; students, \$3; families, \$15; children under 6, free. Free parking.

(Click [here](#) for a media kit that offers hi-resolution images, captions and further background resources.)

### **About the Jewish Museum Milwaukee**

*The Jewish Museum Milwaukee is dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of the Jewish people in southeastern Wisconsin and celebrating the continuum of Jewish heritage and culture. The history of American Jews is rooted in thousands of years of searching for freedom and equality. We are committed to sharing this story and the life lessons it brings with it, so that we may enhance the public's awareness and appreciation of Jewish life and culture.*

### **About the Milwaukee Jewish Federation**

*For more than 100 years, the Milwaukee Jewish Federation has been dedicated to building a strong Jewish community. We distributed \$20 million last year to Jewish and non-Jewish organizations locally and around the world, and manage philanthropy through our \$165 million Jewish Community Foundation.*

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