

## THE FIRST EXHIBITION AT THE MAINE JEWISH MUSEUM ~ 2018

*Opening: Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm - 4 pm*  
*(Snow date: Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm – 7 pm)*

Artists Shoshannah White, Susan Webster, Stuart Kestenbaum and Arthur Fink will exhibit their distinct art work at the Maine Jewish Museum during January and February.



### Shoshannah White *Spiegel Gallery*

STRATA includes photographs captured in Svalbard, Norway as well as cameraless prints made directly from glacier ice and coal. Ice, in glacier form, is melting, growing, compressing – holding planetary history in its transparent layers. Coal, dense, black and filled with carbon, compressed from ancient plant matter, contains energy from millions of years ago. Each material holds clues of the past – both formed by strata of time.

Shoshannah White is an interdisciplinary artist based in Portland, Maine. Her practice includes photography, painting, sculpture and public art installation. Her work is represented by Corey Daniels Gallery in Wells, Maine, Pilar Graves in Los Angeles, California, and by Stephen Bulger Gallery in Toronto.

WORK TOGETHER  
SUSAN WEBSTER & STUART KESTENBAUM  
Fineberg Community Room



OPENING RECEPTION AND POETRY READING:  
Sunday, January 14, 2018, 2pm-4pm  
(Snow Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018, 5pm-7pm)  
EXHIBITION: January 14, 2018 - March 2, 2018  
FIRST FUTURE ART WALK: February 2, 2018, 5pm-8pm

Maine Jewish Museum  
267 Congress Street, Portland, Maine  
Dorothy Dinkler, Curator

### Susan Webster & Stuart Kestenbaum *Fineberg Family Community Room*

Susan Webster and Stuart Kestenbaum envision their work as a partnership between image and word, where both are equals. Susan Webster is a visual artist who combines drawing and printmaking and other media. Carl Little has written, "Webster's awareness of the preciousness of time on earth heightens both her personal sense of existence and the art she creates. Even as she acknowledges a 'certain darkness, mystery, the unknown' she celebrates life. In a manner of speaking, she wears her passion in her prints."

Stuart Kestenbaum is the author of four books of poems, most recently *Only Now* (Deerbrook Editions) and is currently Maine's poet laureate. Former US Poet Laureate Ted Kooser has written "Stuart Kestenbaum writes the kind of poems I love to read, heartfelt responses to the privilege of having been given a life. No hidden agendas here, no theories to espouse, nothing but life, pure life, set down with craft and love." Stu will read three of his poems at the opening in the Fineberg Family Community Room.

AUSCHWITZ | IMAGES OF RESILIENCE AND LIGHT  
ARTHUR FINK  
Third Floor Gallery



**Arthur Fink**  
*Third Floor Sanctuary*

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Maine Jewish Museum  
267 Congress Street, Portland Maine  
Curated by Nancy Davidson & Nanci Kahn

I'm best known as a photographer of dance. But what I really photograph is energy and emotion.

This exhibit has given me the opportunity to look inward for that emotion, as I've sought images of mine that suggest hope, possibility, and positive vision.

Some of the most hopeful images were these tiny drawings by children in several of the concentration camps – painstakingly copied by artists onto the plaster walls of a room at the Shoah exhibit at Auschwitz. As I photographed these tiny and faint scenes, I could see that these children, and I believe all children, were born with love, compassion, appreciation for their parents, and no understanding at all of the fate that awaited them. Other images in the exhibit offer different points of light. My vision is not just of what happened at Auschwitz, but also of human resilience throughout time.

One afternoon, after returning home from junior high school, I came upon a slender volume, placed with spine facing rear, on my parent's book shelf. It was a volume commemorating the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp, a volume that my father had art directed. The crude images of the Holocaust were etched in my mind on that day. I've looked many times for that book, but never could find it again.

And then, only recently, I was asked to accompany Martin Steingesser, Judith Tierney, and Robin Jellis on their pilgrimage to Auschwitz and Birkenau. The images my father had worked with were all there, closer to real life, and closer to my heart as I spent time there reflecting on my life, my faith, and my hope.