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**The Art and the Stigma of History on the Example of the Sculptures of Wiktor Tolkin (Viktor Tolkin)**

History of art, like all humanistic sciences, is set in reality of life of the creator as well as of the perceptor. The example of artistic biography strictly interwoven into historical reality is the life of Wiktor Tolkin, Polish artist. He was a witness of horror in concentration camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau, the greatest fascist concentration camp in Europe. As an adult he lived in difficult time for any artist – in communistic system. That is why his art includes a problem of an individual contesting totalitarian system. Therefore Tolkin's artistic life is keeping balance of profits and losses. Tolkin's biography also includes his evolvment in politics, what is characteristic for the artists who lived in so-called the former Eastern block in Europe. In my presentation I would like to stress relationships between historical and political factors and art on the example of artistic inheritance of Viktor Tolkin.