

*...your move*

**CHESS IN THE ART OF SAMUEL BAK**



**PUCKER GALLERY • BOSTON 2003**

How do we negotiate through these memories of a past and pretend to know how to respond when confronted by a most uncertain future. If the past is to be our teacher, we must ask what have we as humankind learned? Can we live on earth together in peace? Can we dream together of a universe where our actions will produce reconciliation and respect, or will we be cursed to repeat – on an even grander scale – the travesties of our predecessors?

Bak's newest works continue his 60 year oeuvre. The questions remain! The fears abound! And yet his art becomes even more beautiful. A strange descriptive word in the midst of the horrors described or anticipated.

As the clouds darken, Bak's palette brightens, nature is more inviting, the art strangely uplifting.

We are captured by their questions and their visual power. We realize that each work of art is a contribution to our universe and we are grateful for it.

We are privileged to share these works in celebration of Bak's 70<sup>th</sup> year. May his art continue to reflect our life experiences and stimulate us to work toward a better future.

– Bernard H. Pucker

*Often I share my writings with Brother Thomas. His response to the above eloquently and clearly expands the direction of my thoughts:*

*I appreciated your comments on Sam's new work on chess, particularly the line about how Sam's work may be rooted in his personal past but it certainly speaks in the present.*

*If I may footnote your comment, your "Text" – That's what makes it authentic art for me. If it were only a witness to the Holocaust it would be history in a hundred years; if it were only a witness to a personal experience, it would be biography in a hundred years. But, it witnesses the human condition so it transcends time and events and will be relevant as long as the human condition remains, inhuman.*



*Various Openings*, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 24"

**BK909**



*Key Situation*, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 24"

**BK912**



*Intruder*, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 48"

BK923



*Signals*, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 24"

BK914



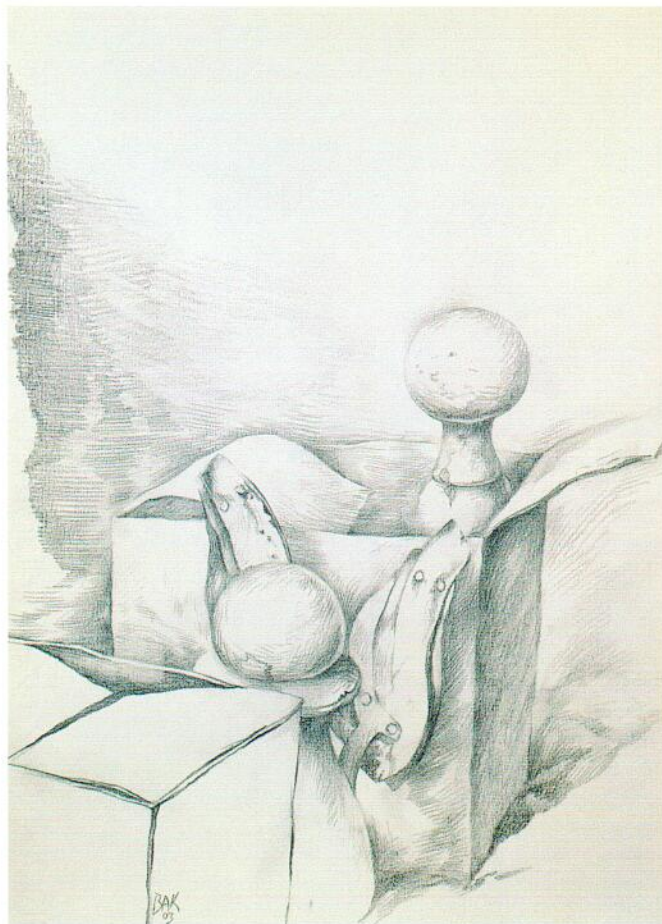
*The Designated*, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 18"

BK911



*Hero*, Watercolor, 10 1/4 x 7 3/8"

**BK904**



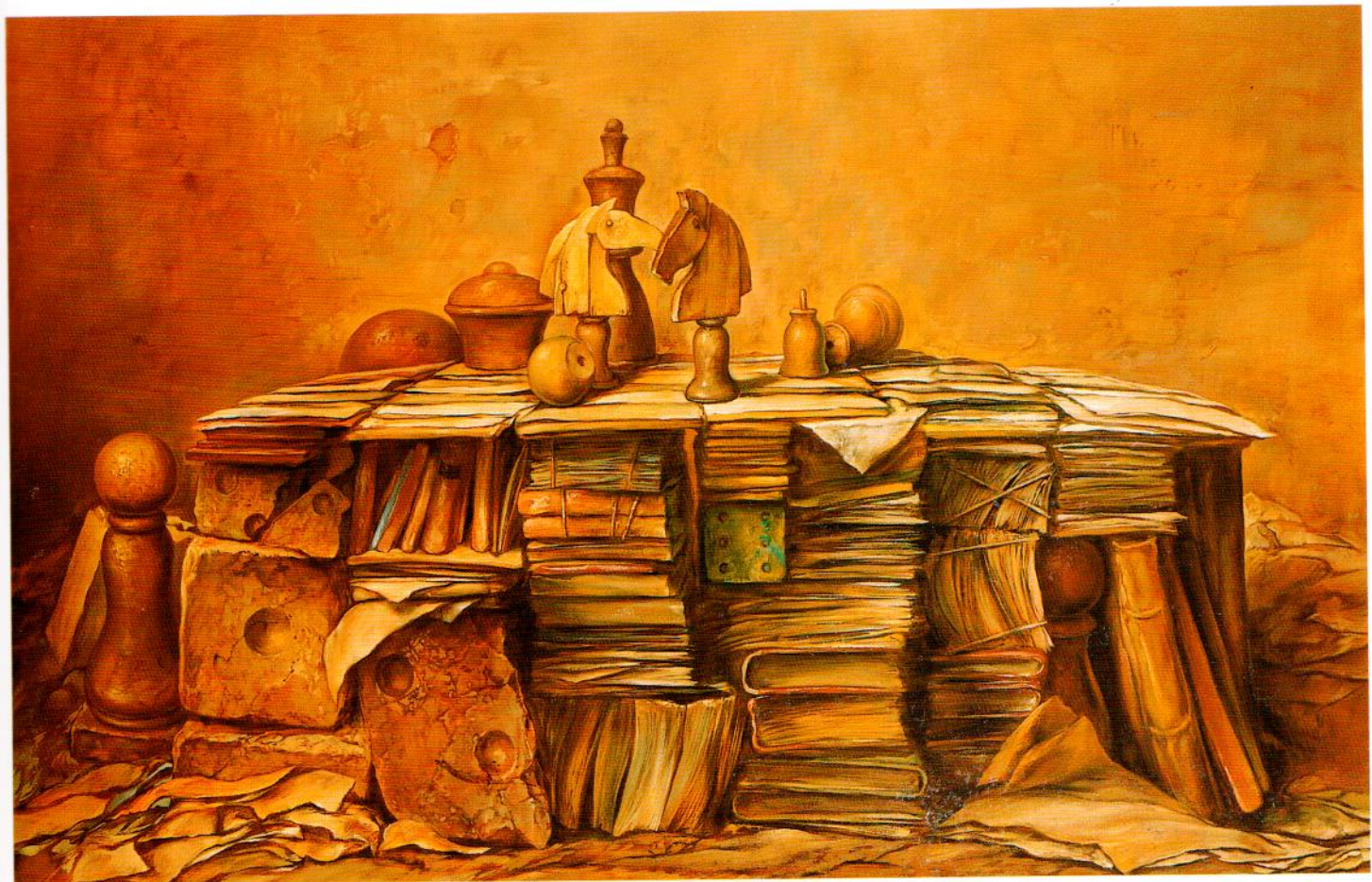
*Packed*, Drawing, 12 1/2 x 9 1/4"

**BK890**



*Bishop, Knight, Rook*, Watercolor, 7 1/2 x 10"

**BK894**



*Knowledgeable*, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 36"

BK915



*Winged*, Watercolor, 11 x 8 1/2"

BK891



*Transcribed*, Watercolor, 14 x 10"

BK896



*Uplifting*, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 36"

BK918





*Cavalcade*, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 18"

**BK921**



*Cease Fire*, Watercolor, 12 x 7 1/2" **BK892**



*Ready*, Watercolor, 11 x 14 3/4"

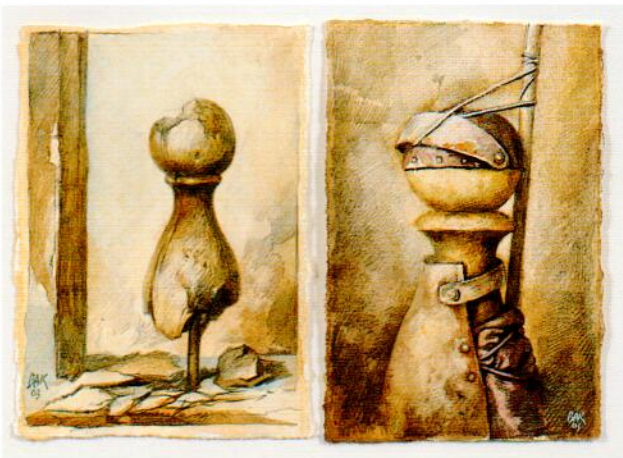
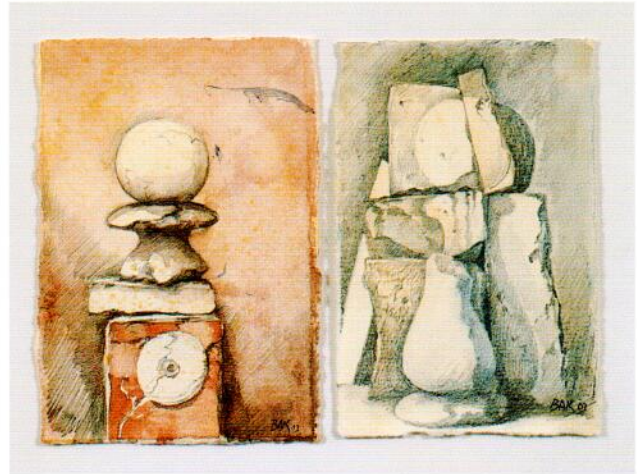
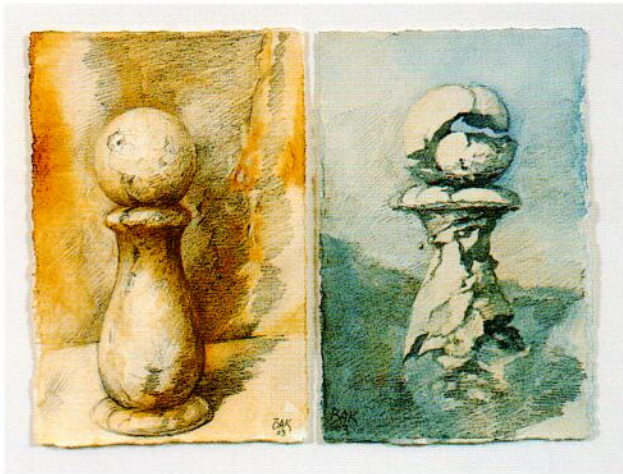
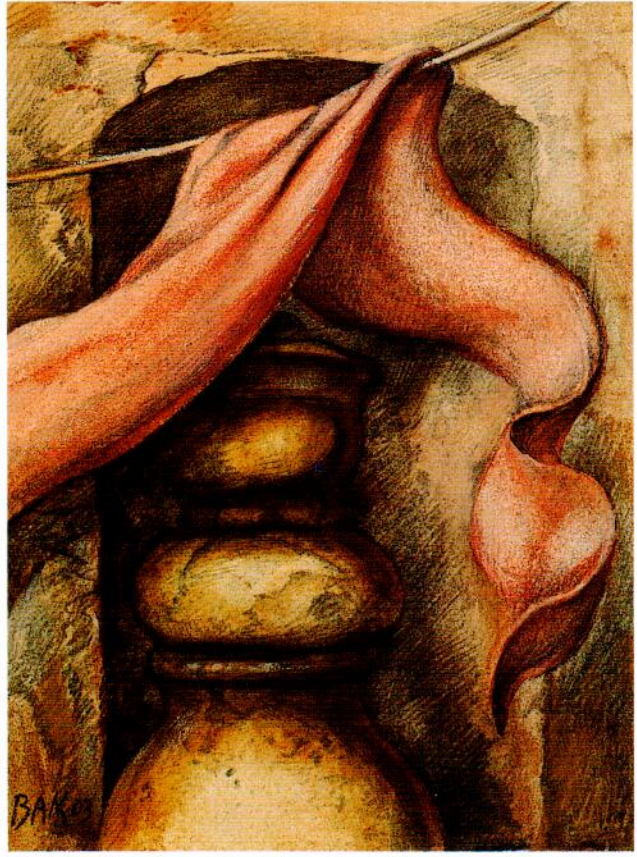
**BK897**



*Where the Wind Blows*, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 48"



BK924



Opposite page  
LEFT COLUMN

**Top** – *King*, Drawing,  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ ", **BK888**

**Middle** – *Pawns G and H*, Watercolor,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ ", **BK901**

**Bottom** – *Pawns C and D*, Watercolor,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ ", **BK899**

RIGHT COLUMN

**Top** – *Queen*, Watercolor,  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ ", **BK886**

**Middle** – *Pawns E and F*, Watercolor,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ ", **BK900**

**Bottom** – *Pawns A and B*, Drawing & Watercolor,  $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ ", **BK898**



*Across*, Watercolor,  $10\frac{1}{4} \times 14$ "

**BK895**



*Lighthouse, Watercolor, 10 1/2 x 7 1/2"*

**BK887**



*Locked, Watercolor, 12 1/2 x 9 1/4"*

**BK889**



*Quite Clear*, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 24"

BK920



*As Clear as the Day*, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 24"

BK919



*Stronghold*, Oil on Canvas, 32 x 39"



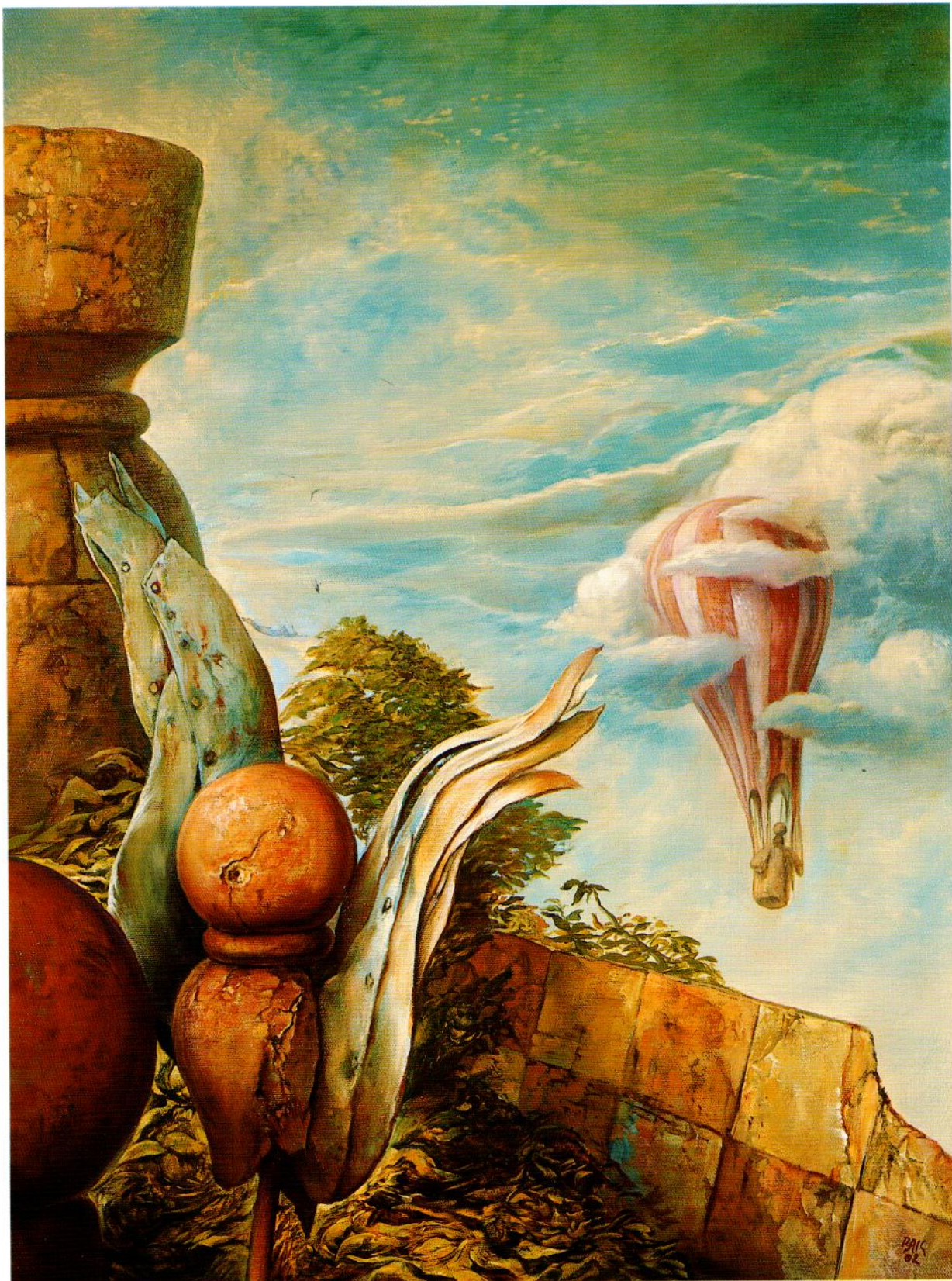


BK926



*Unexpected*, Oil on Canvas, 18 x 24"

BK913



*Flight*, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 18"

BK910



*Luna*, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 18"

BK908



Royal Flight, Oil on Canvas, 36 x 24"

BK928



*Royal Couple*, Oil on Canvas, 36 x 24"

BK916



*Triumvirate*, Oil on Canvas, 36 x 24"

BK927



*Other Rules*, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 36"

BK917





*To The Right*, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 12"

**BK906**



*Messenger*, Oil on Canvas, 24 x 12"

**BK907**



*White and Blue*, Watercolor, 8 3/4 x 5 1/4" **BK902**



*Draped*, Watercolor, 11 x 7 1/2" **BK903**

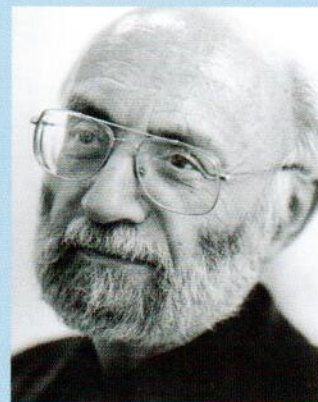


*Boards Meeting*, Oil on Canvas, 39 x 32"

BK925

## *Samuel Bak*

- 1933 Born 12 August in Vilna, Poland
- 1940-44 Under German occupation: ghetto, work-camp, refuge in a monastery
- 1942 First exhibition of drawings in the ghetto Vilna
- 1945-48 Displaced Persons camps in Germany; studied painting in Munich
- 1948 Emigrated to Israel
- 1952 Studied at the Bezalel Art School, Jerusalem
- 1953-56 Army service
- 1956 Received the First Prize of the American-Israeli Cultural Foundation
- 1956-59 Lived in Paris. Studied at the "Ecole des Beaux-Arts."
- 1959-93 1959-66 lived in Rome; 1966-74 in Israel; 1974-77 in New York City; 1977-80 in Israel; 1980-84 in Paris; 1984-93 in Switzerland
- 1993 Moved to Weston, Massachusetts



### **SOLO GALLERY EXHIBITIONS**

- Galleria Schneider - 1959, 1961, 1965, 1966
- Galleria Liguria - 1963
- L'Angle Aigu, Brussels - 1965
- Alwin Gallery, London - 1965
- Gordon Gallery, Tel Aviv - 1966
- Roma Gallery, Chicago - 1967
- Modern Art Gallery, Jaffa - 1968
- Pucker Safrai Gallery, Boston - 1969, 1972, 1975, 1979, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991
- Hadassah "K" Gallery, Tel Aviv - 1971, 1973, 1978
- Aberbach Fine Art, New York - 1974, 1975, 1978
- Ketterer Gallery, Munich - 1977
- Amstutz Gallery, Zurich - 1978
- Vonderbank Gallery, Frankfurt - 1978
- Goldman Gallery, Haifa - 1978
- DeBel Gallery, Jerusalem - 1978, 1980
- Galerie Levy, Hamburg - 1980
- Thorens Fine Art, Basel - 1981
- Kallenbach Fine Art, Munich - 1981, 1983, 1984, 1987
- Soufer Gallery, New York - 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1997
- Galerie Ludwig Lange, Berlin - 1987
- Galerie Carpentier, Paris - 1988
- Galerie M.A.G., Paris - 1989
- Galerie Marc Richard, Zurich - 1990
- Galerie de la Cathedrale, Fribourg - 1991, 1992
- Galerie Picpus, Montreux - 1991, 1992
- Pucker Gallery, Boston - 1993. "Landscapes of Jewish Experience"
- Pucker Gallery, Boston - 1995. "The Fruit of Knowledge"
- Pucker Gallery, Boston - 1996. "Landscapes of Jewish Experience II"
- Lore Degenstein Gallery, Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA - 1998
- George Krevsky Fine Art, San Francisco, CA - 1998
- Pucker Gallery, Boston - 1998. "In the Presence of Figures"

Pucker Gallery, Boston - 2000. "The Game Continues"

Pucker Gallery, Boston - 2000. "In A Different Light: Genesis in the Art of Samuel Bak."

Pucker Gallery, Boston - 2002. "Return to Vilna"

Pucker Gallery, Boston - 2003 "...your move: Chess in the Art of Samuel Bak"

### **MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS**

- Bezalel Museum, Jerusalem - 1963
- Tel Aviv Museum - 1963
- Brockton Art Center, Fuller Memorial - 1969
- Bronfman Center, Montreal - 1970
- Rose Museum, Brandeis, Waltham, MA - 1976
- Heidelberg Museum - 1977
- Kunstverein Esslingen - 1977
- Germanisches National Museum, Nuremberg - 1977
- Kunstmuseum, Dusseldorf - 1978
- Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn - 1978
- University of Haifa, Israel - 1978
- Museum Der Stadt, Landau - 1979
- Kunstmuseum, Wiesbaden - 1979
- Kunstverein Braunschweig - 1980
- Traveling Exhibition organized by Ministry of Culture and Education - visited 30 cultural centers in Israel - 1980-85
- Stadtgalerie Bamberg, Villa Dessauer - 1988
- "The Past Continues - Two Decades" Koffler Gallery, Toronto Ontario - 1990
- "The Past Continues" Temple Judea Museum, Philadelphia - 1991
- "Bak and Dürer" Dürer Museum, Nuremberg - 1991
- "Samuel Bak - Landschaften Jüdischer Erfahrung" Jüdisches Museum, Stadt Frankfurt am Main-1993
- "FLIGHT: Escape, Hope, Redemption" Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, New York - 1994

"Samuel Bak-A Retrospective Journey: Paintings 1946-1994",  
Janice Charach Epstein Museum/Gallery, W. Bloomfield,  
MI - 1994.

"Myth, Midrash and Mysticism" Spertus Museum,  
Chicago, IL - 1995

"Myth, Midrash, and Mysticism" Mizel Museum of Judaica,  
Denver, CO - 1995

"Landscapes of Jewish Experience" Wilshire Boulevard Temple,  
Los Angeles, CA - 1995

"Myth, Midrash, and Mysticism" The National Catholic Center  
For Holocaust Education, Seton Hall College, Greensburg,  
PA - 1995

"Myth, Midrash, and Mysticism" Rosen Museum Gallery,  
Boca Raton, FL - 1996

"The Landscape of Jewish Experience", Holocaust Museum  
Houston & B'Nai B'Rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum,  
Washington, D.C. - 1997

"Angles From Elsewhere", Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter  
Academy, Exeter, NH - 1997

"Retrospective", Panorama Museum, Bad Frankenhausen,  
Germany - 1998

"Transformation and Transfiguration," Snite Museum of Art,  
Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN - 2001

"Working Through the Past", Florida Holocaust Museum,  
Saint Petersburg, FL - 2001

"Returning Home", National Museum of Lithuania,  
Vilnius - 2001

Neues Stadtmuseum, Landsberg am Lech, Germany - 2002

Canton Museum of Art, Canton, OH - 2002

"Art and the Holocaust", Clark University, Worcester,  
MA - 2002

92nd Street Y, New York, NY - 2002

JCC and Memphis College of Art - 2003

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

The Carnegie International, Pittsburgh - 1961

"Image and Imagination", Tel Aviv Museum - 1967

"Jewish Experience in the Art of the 20th Century,"  
Jewish Museum, New York - 1975

International Art Fair, Basel - 1979, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1986

"Nachàbilder," Kunstahalle, Hannover - 1979

"Bilder Sind Nicht Verboten," Stadtische Kunstàhaller,  
Dusseldorf - 1982

"Still Life," Tel Aviv Museum - 1984

International Art Fair, Ghent - 1986

"Chagall to Kitaj", Barbican Art Center, London - 1990

"Witness and Legacy", Traveling Group Exhibition in  
North America - 1995 - present.

#### PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

Ben Uri Gallery, London

Boston Public Library, Boston, MA

Constitutional Court of South Africa, Braamfontein

DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, MA

Dürer House, Nuremberg

Florida Holocaust Museum, St. Petersburg, FL

Germanisches National Museum, Nuremberg

German Parliament, Bonn

Hobart & William Smith College, Geneva, NY

Holocaust Museum Houston, Houston, TX

Hood Museum, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

Imperial War Museum, London

Israel Museum, Jerusalem

Jewish Museum, New York, NY

Kunstmuseum, Bamberg

National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario

National Museum of Lithuania, Vilnius

Panorama Museum, Bad Frankenhausen

Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH

Rose Museum, Brandeis, Waltham, MA

University of Haifa

University of Scranton, Scranton, PA

Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv

Tufts University, Medford, MA

Yad Vashem Museum, Jerusalem

Vaud State, Switzerland

Jüdisches Museum, Stadt Frankfurt am Main

Simmons College, Boston, MA

Snite Museum of Art, Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN

Springfield Museum of Fine Art, Springfield, MA

#### MONOGRAPHS/BOOKS

Chess as Metaphor In the Art of Samuel Bak,  
Jean Louis Cornuz. Boston & Montreux, 1991.

Samuel Bak, The Past Continues, Samuel Bak and  
Paul T. Nagano. David R. Godine, Boston, 1988.

Bak, Monuments to Our Dreams, Rolf Kallenbach.  
Limes Verlag, Weisbaden & Munich, 1977.

Bak, Paintings of the Last Decade, A. Kaufman and  
Paul T. Nagano. Aberbach, New York, 1974.

Ewiges Licht (Landsberg: A Memoir 1944-1948), Samuel Bak.  
Jewish Museum Frankfurt, 1996.

Landscapes of Jewish Experience, Lawrence Langer.  
University Press of New England, 1997.

Samuel Bak - Retrospektive, Bad Frankenhausen Museum,  
Bad Frankenhausen, Germany, 1998.

The Game Continues: Chess in the Art of Samuel Bak,  
Pucker Art, Boston, & Indiana University Press,  
Bloomington, 2000.

In A Different Light: Genesis in the Art of Samuel Bak,  
Lawrence Langer. Pucker Art, Boston, & University  
of Washington Press, Seattle, 2001.

Painted in Words: A Memoir, Pucker Art, Boston, &  
Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 2002.

Speaking About the Unspeakable, A VHS Video, Produced  
by Rob Cooper, Pucker Art, 2002.

Between Worlds: The Drawings and Paintings of Samuel Bak  
from 1946-2000. Pucker Art, 2002.



*Key Position*, Watercolor, 9 x 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"

**BK893**



*Drowned*, Watercolor, 11 x 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" **BK905**

## **2 August 2003 - 1 September 2003**

Opening Reception: 2 August 2003, 3 to 6 PM  
The public is invited to attend – The artist will be present

Pucker Gallery  
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Boston, MA 02116  
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[www.puckergallery.com](http://www.puckergallery.com)

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Permit #1906

ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED.

Gallery Hours: Monday through Saturday 10:00 am to 5:30 pm / Sundays 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Member of the Boston Art Dealers Association. One hour free validated parking is available in the lot on the corner of Newbury and Dartmouth Streets