



Hans Molzberger and Rubin Samelson: Rubin's Colors

The exhibition *Hans Molzberger and Rubin Samelson: Rubin's Colors* has been on view at Houston Baptist University till April 2013. The exhibit traveled to Zeitkunst Galerie, Halle, Germany and is now on view at Schloss Colditz, Germany.

This exhibition is a collaboration between the German artist Molzberger, who during the academic year teaches sculpture and ceramics at Houston Baptist University, and Samelson who was a concentration camp survivor during the Second World War. As a young man Samelson was placed in the Buchenwald, Germany camp and forced to work in the glass factory. As an artist, once he escaped from the camp, he used his knowledge of glass production to make art. In this installation, with Molzberger's assistance, they produced a hundred butterflies in colored glass. The exhibit also includes a video interview of Samelson and sculptural frameworks by Molzberger.

The butterfly as symbol has special meaning to Holocaust victims. At Poland's Maidanek camp, in the children's barracks, there were found hundreds of images of butterflies scratched into the walls with stones and fingernails. The children, knowing that they were going to die, imagined themselves turning into butterflies after death. Also, at the Terezin concentration camp in Czechoslovakia, from 1942-44, children did drawings and wrote poems about the hardships they experienced in the camp. The butterfly became a powerful symbol of the souls flight to a better world.

The exhibition *Hans Molzberger and Rubin Samelson: Rubin's Colors* takes on a new and special meaning, as Rubin Samelson passed away on January 15th of 2013 in Houston, Texas.

Jim Edwards