



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 2, 2022
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: Principals, Teachers and Guidance Councilors
From: New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

Resources Available for Schools: Morris Katz – The Presidential Collection

In furtherance of the State's recognition of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, 2022, the Orthodox Jewish Chamber of Commerce is offering a free program, the Morris Katz Presidential, that can be used to meet educational goals for upcoming Presidents' Day commemorations. The collection of presidential portraits, which can be used in history and art curriculums, is available through virtual and print media.

Background

Morris Katz, a Holocaust survivor, focused on his art after arriving on American shores in 1949. His work is featured in many museums, including the Smithsonian. Following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Katz began The Presidential Collection project. For six years, he painted portraits of each president, beginning with George Washington and concluding with the last president of his lifetime, George H.W. Bush, spending an average of 200 hours on each portrait.

As our country celebrates Presidents' Day, The Orthodox Jewish Chamber of Commerce is promoting the Morris Katz President Collection. These paintings can serve as a gateway to classroom lessons, whether they focus on a specific president in terms of American history, a conversation about art, or one from the perspective of a Holocaust survivor and patriot who began a new life as an artist. In the months ahead, we aim to add curriculum-based features to the collection, which will be available to teachers.

Key steps/actions

Please go to the [Morris Katz Presidential Collection website](#) if interested in using this program in your classroom.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group