

# FABRIC OF SURVIVAL

## Images of the Art of Esther Nisenthal Krinitz



In 1977, at the age of 50, Esther Nisenthal Krinitz began creating works of fabric art to depict her stories of survival. Trained as a dressmaker but untrained in art, she created a collection of 36 needlework and fabric collage pictures in strong, vivid colors and striking details with a sense of folk-like realism. Meticulously

stitched words beneath the pictures provide a narrative. While the

pictures are visually pleasing, almost cheerful, a closer examination

reveals the stark incongruity between the pastoral surroundings and

the human violence, terror and betrayal that are their subjects.

Tom L. Freudenheim, former director of the Berlin Jewish Museum, wrote: "These extraordinary pictures are very moving, but not in the least bit sentimental. The compositional concepts are highly sophisticated. I was overwhelmed by what I saw." Yet Krinitz created her series of pictures simply to pass on her memories to her children. "I had no intention or ever dreamed that they would be exhibited. I only did it for my children, my two daughters," she said.

**Presented by Art and Remembrance**

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