

## Impact Statement

Assemay Yermakhan, Grade 11

***Courage and compassion***, 2024.

Graphite and acrylic on paper, 8.3 x 11.7 inches.

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Unsung Hero: Curt Lowens

Light often appears in the darkest corners of history, warming people with rays of goodness and courage. Scrolling through the list of people, each of whom left their mark on history, my choice immediately fell on a man with a sharp and piercing gaze. There is often more hidden in a person's eyes than just a look. They can tell not only about character and mood, but also reflect all the experiences and difficulties that a person has gone through. I became very interested in the story of the Hero I had chosen and found fascinating information that inspired me to draw with special care and interest. Curt Lowens saved 123 people from the Nazis despite danger and persecution by the Nazis. The courage in his actions inspired me not only to paint, but also to become just as courageous. After all, courage is a quality that many people do not have in the 21st century.

I began my research by studying his biography in the list of Unsung Heroes, where his heroism was well outlined. But I wanted to get to know him better for further inspiration, and thus I found many interesting facts about him. Studying his life, I had mixed feelings, including empathy and gratitude. His childhood was not as bright as ours, where human rights are diligently protected. After the Nazis took over Germany, his father was fired, his school was burned, and his family was persecuted. However, Curt Lowens did not give up and did not accept the cruelty of this world but protected the lives of hundreds of innocent people together with a team of like-minded people. As a person who is deeply interested in the history of the world, I was amazed by the kindness of people like him. It is difficult to imagine, if I had lived these years in such circumstances, whether I would have been able to save these innocent people, despite the complexity of the process.

In my work, I illustrated the seriousness and globality of his activities through his deep and serious look. Also, I encountered the difficulty of choosing compositions for the painting. I drew drawings several times, where I tried to convey an atmosphere that shows the pain that Jewish children and adults had to go through. I drew an old building, unpleasant at first glance, which at that time was called a concentration camp. Also visible in the picture are human silhouettes staring intently through the window. I demonstrated their helplessness with this approach. And the tracks on the ground that are heading towards Curt Lowens show that these people followed him to finally escape

injustice. I think that the background also plays an important role in the painting, as they show everything that is happening. When I was going to paint my picture, I could not imagine that I would be interested in the biography of people. I believe that his valiant deeds shine a light, filling hearts with hope and admiration. His selfless devotion brought hope and saved many lives, becoming an enduring symbol of human kindness and courage in the face of terrible adversity.

I have grown as a person while creating my artwork. Not only did my knowledge increase after studying the hero I chose, but I also revised my views on life. Most of all, I am grateful to him for the fact that he saved people and gave them the opportunity to avoid a difficult fate. I am also going to share my work on my Instagram, where I often post my works. I want the whole world to know about his heroism and the social network is an excellent tool that unites the whole world. I appreciate being involved in the ARTEFFECT project as it has given me the incentive to develop my skills. This story leaves us with deep respect and admiration for those who risk their lives to save others. It reminds us of the strength that can reside within each of us when we face injustice and need support and inspiration.