

# The Nazi Drawings

By Artist Mauricio Lasansky

A Documentary by Lane Wyrick

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## The Production Team

Director/Cinematographer/Editor – Lane Wyrick

Content Advisor - Phillip Lasansky

Narrated by Eric Forsythe

Written by Lane Wyrick & Phillip Lasansky

Music Composed by David K. Gompper

Produced by The University of Iowa Foundation

Interviews with Mauricio Lasansky, Edwin Honig,  
Richard S. Levitt

# The Nazi Drawings

## A Documentary by Lane Wyrick

### Awards & Festivals

*Best Documentary*

**2004 Mid-America Emmy Awards – St. Louis**

*Best Director & Best Documentary*

**New York International Independent Film & Video Festival – New York**

*Documentary Winner*

**Telluride IndieFest 2K - Colorado**

*#3 Audience Favorite*

**Palm Springs International Short Film Festival - California**

*First Place*

**Des Moines Art Center Film & Video Competition - Iowa**

*Official Selection*

**Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival - Arkansas**

*Finalist*

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Telly Awards National Competition - Ohio**

*Official Selection*

**Valleyfest Film Festival - Tennessee**

*Bronze Award*

**Houston Worldfest - Texas**

*Official Selection*

**2001 Texas Film Festival - Texas**

*Best Documentary, Best Director, Best Editing, Best Cinematography,  
and Best Soundtrack*

**Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival – Iowa**

*Best Documentary, Best Original Music Score, Best Voice Over Narration,  
Best Entertainment Short, Finalist – Editing*

**Iowa Motion Picture Awards – Iowa**

# The Nazi Drawings

By Artist Mauricio Lasansky  
A Documentary by Lane Wyrick

## Description (99 words):

“The Nazi Drawings” documentary is an exploration of the history and passion behind Artist Mauricio Lasansky’s stunning and disturbing graphic portrayal of Nazi atrocities. With unflinching directness, Lasansky’s internationally renowned series of 33 large-scale drawings powerfully expresses gut-wrenching emotional torment and human degradation.

Learn from Lasansky himself why he felt so strongly compelled to spend 6 years of his life pouring his emotion into this extremely difficult series...feel the true impact of these powerful and disturbing drawings...and see why the universal anti-violence message of The Nazi Drawings continues to have a deep emotional impact on observers to this day.

## Alternate Length Descriptions (50 words):

“The Nazi Drawings”, a documentary by Lane Wyrick, explores the history and passion behind Artist Mauricio Lasansky’s stunning graphic portrayal of man’s inhumanity to man. Lasansky’s series powerfully expresses the true horror of death and human degradation that continues to have a deep emotional impact on observers to this day.

## Shorter Description (36 words):

“The Nazi Drawings” documentary explores the history and passion behind Artist Mauricio Lasansky’s stunning graphic series that powerfully portrays the true horror of death and human degradation, exposing disturbing universal themes that resonate in contemporary society.

## Shortest Description (29 words):

“The Nazi Drawings”, an award-winning documentary by Lane Wyrick, explores both the history and the passion behind Artist Mauricio Lasansky’s powerful series of drawings that depict the horrors of Nazi atrocities.

## Long Description (200 words)

“The Nazi Drawings”, a documentary by Lane Wyrick, explores the history and passion behind Artist Mauricio Lasansky’s stunning graphic portrayal of man’s inhumanity to man.

Shortly after World War II, Lasansky viewed a startling US Military documentary showing the victims and aftermath of Nazi atrocities. The visions of death and human degradation caused him to become profoundly upset, and he felt compelled as an artist and humanist to express his disgust through a series of works that would become known as The Nazi Drawings.

Lasansky worked intensively for six years to create the series, which consist of thirty individual pieces and one triptych. Since their completion in 1966, The Nazi Drawings have been exhibited in several prominent art museums, and have received widespread public attention.

“The Nazi Drawings” is the first documentary by Iowa City native Lane Wyrick, who served as both videographer and editor. With funding from The University of Iowa Foundation, Wyrick began shooting the documentary in January 1998. The 25-minute Digital Video production was completed in November 1999.

The documentary features interviews with Lasansky, Edwin Honig (author of the essay included in The Nazi Drawings Catalog), and Richard S. Levitt (who purchased The Nazi Drawings in 1969).

## Reviews of The Nazi Drawings

"...Quite powerful...Recommended...Even on video, the drawings, which are stylistically reminiscent of the English artist Francis Bacon, carry a frighteningly sinister aura, delivering a visceral impact that hits the viewer on both a conscious and subconscious level. Considering that most will never see "The Nazi Drawings" in person, this documentary provides a good summary of the series and of Lasansky's motivation for creating it." **Video Librarian**

"The pencil, wash, and earth-color drawings of life-size figures are disturbing, haunting, and honest, conveying a visual reminder of a painful history that must not be forgotten...This documentary can be used effectively to teach the lessons of the Holocaust...Recommended for school and community groups, junior high and above." **Library Journal**

"One of the highlights of the festival was a documentary by Lane Wyrick called 'The Nazi Drawings'. This was one powerful exploration of the Holocaust...everything about this project was professional - beautifully filmed and well written." **Herb Kane/CriticDoctor.com**

Lane Wyrick's film expresses the anguish that the artist and humanist still feels as he observes a world where tyranny has continued to eradicate minorities in places like Bosnia and the Philippines. Beautifully filmed, the documentary shares haunting images of real people tossed like garbage into the mass burial pits surrounding the concentration camps. But the strongest moments in the documentary come when Lasansky's friend, Brown University professor of English and poet Edwin Honig, shares his perspective on the power behind The Nazi Drawings. "Art delivers in a way that diplomacy doesn't," Honig says.

**Iowa Alumni Magazine**

(Wyrick) wanted to ensure that the film would be of service both to those who know The Nazi Drawings and newcomers like himself. "What I hoped this would be was a real artistic exploration of this monumental work," said Wyrick, who reported being profoundly moved when he first encountered the drawings. "Nothing will ever replace seeing the drawings in person, but, with the images we've put together, hopefully people can get an idea of their power and importance." **Iowa City Press Citizen**

"I videotaped Mauricio at his studio, trying to capture an honest quality, a dialogue between the artist and me," Wyrick said...Lasansky said he was happy with the video. "It puts the point across," he said. "It will help people understand The Nazi Drawings."

**The Cedar Rapids Gazette**

When Lane Wyrick's new documentary, The Nazi Drawings, had its private premiere at the Levitt Center in October 1999, he was unprepared for the audience's reaction. But when the credits rolled, the effect was stunning. "There was complete silence," Wyrick said. "I walked over to the VCR to turn it off, and it was like walking through very thick air." A few members of the audience were crying... **The Daily Iowan**

*Los Angeles Premiere of The Nazi Drawings Documentary listed as a Best Bet*  
**The Los Angeles Times**

## **Award-Winning Nazi Drawings Documentary Now On DVD**

“The Nazi Drawings”, an award-winning documentary by filmmaker Lane Wyrick, is now available on DVD. The documentary has received several national awards and critical acclaim in the festival circuit, including receiving the Mid-America Emmy Award for Best Documentary, and was awarded “Best Documentary” and “Best Director” at the New York International Independent Film Festival.

The 25-minute documentary explores the history and passion behind artist Mauricio Lasansky’s powerful graphic series of drawings depicting the horrors of Nazi atrocities. Born in Argentina, Lasansky came to the University of Iowa in 1945 to head the world-renowned printmaking department for over 40 years, and during his tenure, created the Nazi Drawings series. These 33 lifesize drawings have had a major impact on the artworld with their direct and often gruesome look at the Holocaust. They have been on display around the country, and have been featured in numerous publications, including Time Magazine.

“My task was to translate the power and emotion of the drawings into the medium of filmmaking,” Wyrick said. “At public screenings across the country audiences have reacted very favorably while simultaneously being deeply disturbed, with many audience members being brought to tears, which is the reaction Lasansky intended to elicit from the Drawings.”

The documentary presents a montage of images of the drawings, interviews with Lasansky and others, archival photos, actual film footage from the Holocaust death camps, narration and a haunting original music score by University of Iowa Professor of New Music David Gompper.

Packed with extra DVD features, including directors commentary, exclusive interviews with the artist, interactive viewing of all the drawings, essays, production and background information, and more, this DVD is the ultimate compilation and reference guide for artist Mauricio Lasansky’s powerful and disturbing vision.

The DVD may also be used in classrooms and libraries, allowing students and educators to effectively learn the lessons of the Holocaust.

More information on The Nazi Drawings documentary is available at  
[www.NaziDrawings.com](http://www.NaziDrawings.com).

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