**THE PRESIDENTIAL COLLECTION by MORRIS KATZ
February 2023**

**FOR TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS & MUSEUM DOCENTS**: Here are some facts about this collection. They will allow you to create exciting lessons for your students, coming from many different angles including Art, History, Immigration, the Holocaust, Civics. Lessons can be integrated and viewed through an interdisciplinary lens that meets the grade level and curriculum standards of your school, state, and country. The paintings are your gateway to beautiful art, significant history, and human responses.

**FACTS about the ARTIST**

* Morris Katz came to the United States in 1949, following years spent in concentration camps during World War II
* He was a Holocaust survivor
* He was an immigrant
* He became a passionate supporter of the United States as a place of freedom
* He built a new life in the US using his artistic talent
* He was an expert artist in the older more traditional styles
* He created a new form of art called Instant Art which could be appreciated by people who had no art experience
* He was awarded several Guinness world records
* Postcards were created of all the paintings and sold to the public around the world.
* Morris Katz continued to fight for the freedom of Jews in

**FACTS about the PRESIDENTIAL COLLECTION**

* The first painting was a tribute to Pres. John F. Kennedy following his assassination
* He then painted portraits of every president starting with George Washington.
* Each painting took about 200 hours to create
* Each portrait had the American flag in the background, with the correct number of stars at the time of that presidency
* Katz was offered $50,000 for the Kennedy painting, and he turned down the offer.

**FACTS about ARTISTS in GENERAL**

* Artists create art that expresses their experiences and their feelings
* Artists use art to react to the world around them
* Artists are changemakers – the paintings they create help people to see reality in new ways
* When the public views art it makes them think and can create public reactions to fight evil and work for good causes
* Using art as a means to teach children about many different subjects is an exceptional tool for teachers

**CREATING LESSON PLANS: IDEAS**

* How Does an Artist Find Ideas to create a painting or a collection?
	+ What has happened in the world today (today, this month, this year)? –
	+ How do I feel about it? Am I happy, sad, angry?
	+ How can I show the world why it means something to me?
* Specifics for Presidential Collection:
	+ - Katz loved his new country with great gratitude for welcoming him and nurturing his talent
		- He wanted to share that with the world
		- He viewed the assassination as an attack on freedom and democracy
		- As an artist, was Katz expressing similar emotions felt by other Holocaust survivors who were American immigrants? How might non-artist survivors express their emotions?
		- As a child, how would you share your reaction to such an assassination, in a way that could promote unity and appreciation for your country?
* How can we use the Presidential Collection to promote a love for our country, our presidents, and an appreciation for our country, helping to end hate and promote freedom, and democracy?
* How can the Presidential Collection help us, in the schools, to make sure that our children “Never Forget” the Holocaust?