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American Visionary Arts Museum

When visiting the American Visionary Arts Museum, I saw an incredible amount of artwork that was unbelievably powerful. Some of the pieces were especially hard to look at knowing the stories behind them. One that stuck out to me was the work of Esther Nisenthal Krinitz called *Esther and the Dream of One Loving Human Family*. This collection was a group of works telling the story of Esther, a woman who had lost most of her family during the Holocaust. She later went on to make a new family of her own and to tell them the story of what happened. Her daughter then convinced her to express her story and the pain of that story through art. Esther went on to embroider thirty- six pieces showing unjust persecution.

This exhibit was a perfect way to link the American Visionary Art Museum to the World Religion class. Aside from the embroidery paying tribute to the inconceivable treatment of innocents, it also depicted the life of the average Jewish person growing up in that part of Poland in the 1930's. One perfect example of this is the picture of Rosh Hashanah in 1938. It shows two Rabbis in front of the arc with the Torah in the temple.