



"Deportation, Riga 14 June, 1941" (1991) Lithograph 64x78.

Aleksandrs wrote, "In 1941 after the forced occupation of the Baltic States, the Soviet Union began the systematic repressions and deportations of the citizenry of these nations to Siberia's labor camps... The three young women are portraits of my aunts and the man confronting the Soviet secret police (NKVD) is my uncle Janis Volonts, who was Latvia's Minister of Welfare prior to his arrest . All of them were arrested and deported to Siberia, only two returned, their crime being that they were Latvian. My uncle is pictured here trying in vain to explain to the NKVD thug that the woman next to him is not his daughter, but his niece, and not on their "list." It was a useless argument as can be seen from the expression on the officer's face, who has drawn his pistol to make things clear... I recall when I was drawing this image an American student approached me and asked me if I was Jewish, thinking this image was an example of an atrocity being committed by the Nazis. "No," I told him, "these are 'red' fascists."