



"Walking Man"

by
Alberto Giacometti
(1960)

[bronze]

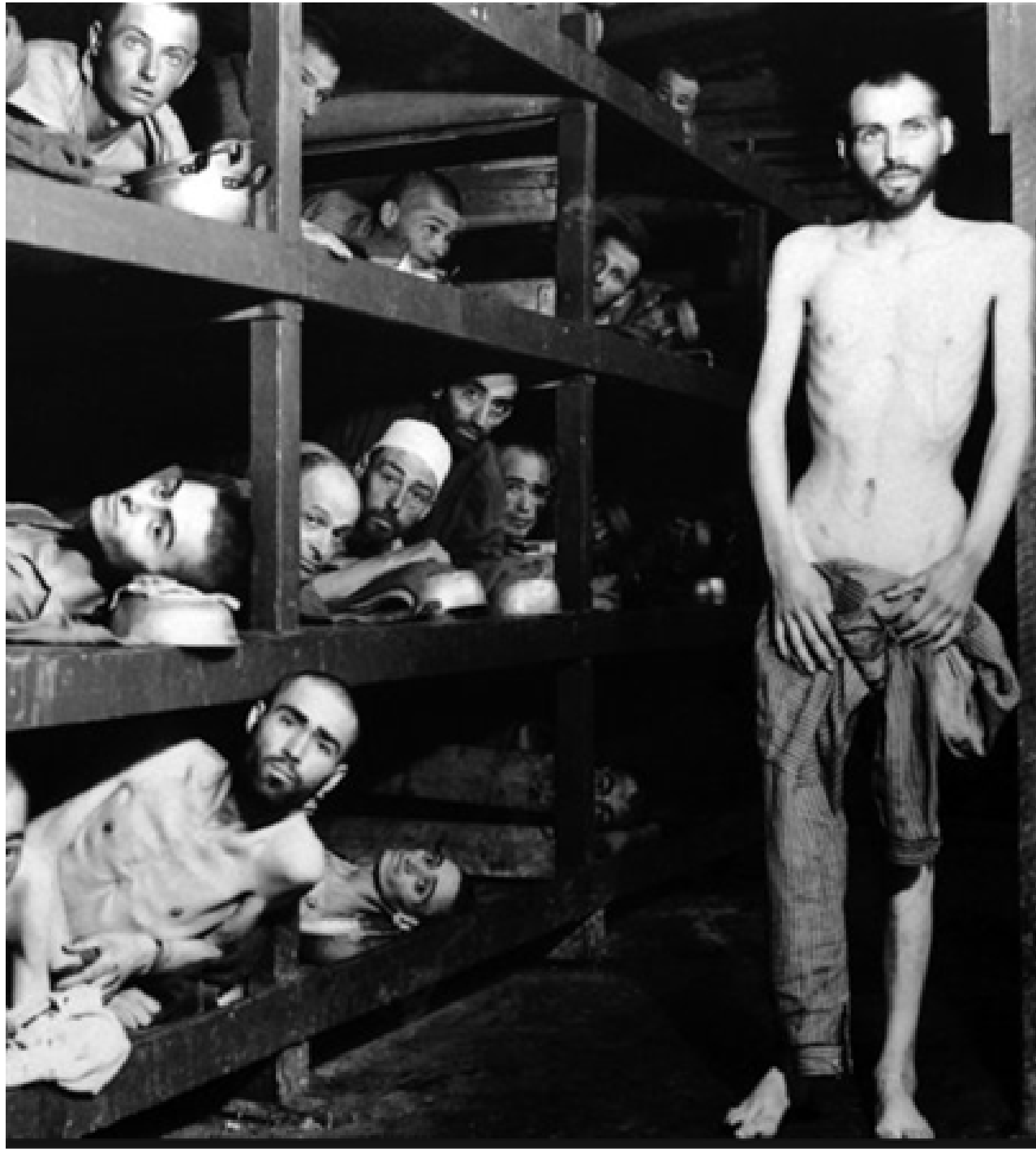
Alberto Giacometti (1901-1966) was a Swiss sculptor and one of the leading artists in the existentialist movement. Existentialism was a French philosophical movement that began in the years after the second world war; the existentialists believed that the world is absurd and irrational and that life has no meaning (it is up to the individual to provide meaning).

Giacometti started his sculptures more realistic, and they progressively became taller and thinner. To him, his sculptures were not unrealistic.

This sculpture, which is bronze and about six feet tall, [one foot = 30.48 centimetres] shows a walking man who is very thin and tall.

[a BRONZE = a work (sculpture) made of bronze]

The body proportions are clearly unrealistic, and this was part of an abstraction movement that diversified art during the 20th century. This work was part of a series that was originally supposed to be on a two-dimensional medium, but eventually expanded into sculptures.



What about this man? He walks with long steps as if he has a clear goal in mind.

Some critics think that **this sculpture represents a man after the end of the Holocaust.**

[Holocaust: the killing of millions of Jews by the Nazis in the 1930s and 1940s.]

Giacometti's figures brilliantly convey the sense of being trapped in life's inexorable movement towards its extinction.

In February 2010, this sculpture was sold for \$103.3 million: it was the largest sum of money ever paid for an individual work of art.