

ORTE der ERINNERUNG/THE VIENNA PROJECT

A Living Memorial Dedicated to the Memory of
Victims of National Socialism and the Holocaust

www.theviennaproject.org

Date for initial installation: May 5th, 2013 **Closing:** May 6-8th, 2014

Place: City streets of Vienna and along the Danube Canal

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Orte der Erinnerung/The Vienna Project is a new time-based Holocaust memorial to be situated on the streets of Vienna. Presented as a participatory expression of remembrance, the memorial will be the first national memorial in Europe to name multiple groups of victims and dissidents of the Holocaust and National Socialism on record and within a given country, murdered between 1938-45.

Commemorating both the start of the Anschluss and the end of the war, *Orte der Erinnerung/The Vienna Project* will open May 5th, 2013, coinciding with Austria's Day of Remembrance against Violence and Racism in Memory of the Victims of National Socialism. The memorial project will mark the 75th anniversary of the annexation of Austria into greater Germany and conclude on V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day).

Developed as a collaborative venture between artists, educators, historians and technologists, *Orte der Erinnerung/The Vienna Project* is being realized as a performance of memory: moving from installation to projection, and from performance art to interactive web design. The project opens with the introduction of 38 sidewalk installations where documented criminal activity took place under Nazi rule, beginning in 1938. The stenciled memory spaces will pose the question: "What happens when we forget to remember?" in nine languages and will sponsor a series of student-led digital interviews and educational theatre programming.

The closing event will consist of a moving image containing the names of victims of genocide, surrounded by victims and dissident groups with a means of escape, retrieved from four databases. The image will be projected onto the façade of the Flak-Türme VII-L Tower in the Augarten, located in the second district. Repurposed through image and sound, the tower originally built by slave laborers will symbolize the defeat of the German army and the end to an unprecedented reign of terror across Europe. The time-based nature of this ephemeral moment will require that audiences witness the names as a shared experience, joining together in a nighttime vigil of remembrance.

Stimulating new forums for critical conversation regarding racism, Xenophobia, and social responsibility, the 75th anniversary of the Anschluss will be acknowledged in a meaningful way for Austrians today, those who emigrated, and those who are remembered.

Karen Frostig, PH.D, President and Artistic Director of *Orte Der Erinnerung/The Vienna Project* is an artist, professor, and descendant of a Viennese survivor of the Holocaust. She is also the descendent of victims of National Socialism. Dr. Frostig's permanently installed artistic work *Exiled Memory* is at the University of Vienna Law School, where her father graduated in 1936 with a Doctorate in Law and Economics. An Austrian and American citizen, Dr. Frostig has assembled an international project team of artists, scholars, and educators to execute her vision of the 75th anniversary of the Anschluss and respectful remembrance of all Austrian victims of the Holocaust.