

The Vienna Project

Press Kit

President: Karen Frostig, Ph.D.

www.theviennaproject.org

<http://viennaproject.tumblr.com>



Factsheet

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Based in Newton, USA and Vienna, AT

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28 Jul 2011

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Press Release: *The Vienna Project*

New Interactive Memorial in Vienna Marking the 75th Anniversary Year of 1938



Image production and photo credit: Elisabeth Wildling

BOSTON/VIENNA, 22. September 2014--Karen Frostig, artist, writer, professor and granddaughter of Austrian Holocaust victims is Founding President of a new social action memorial project, named THE VIENNA PROJECT. Spearheaded by an international team of artists, designers, historians, cultural historians, technologists, and educators, the memorial project opened on 23. October 2013 at the Odeon Theatre and will close on 18. October 2014 at the Austrian National Library at the Hofburg Palace.

The Vienna Project is the first public art memorial of its kind in Europe and the first public naming memorial in Vienna to represent multiple groups of persecuted Austrian victims and dissidents of National Socialism, presented in both integrated and differentiated formats, murdered between 1938-1945. The victim groups include: Jews, Roma and Sinti, mentally ill and physically and mentally disabled, homosexuals, communists, persons persecuted on political grounds, socialists, Carinthian Slovenian resisters, and Jehovah's Witnesses. The memorial project contains three historically significant focal points: the Naming Memorial, 38 Sidewalk Installation/Memorial, and Parcours des Erinnern.

The project's Closing Ceremony is dedicated to the thousands of Austrian victims

of National Socialism, and brings together the “38 Sidewalk Installation” memorial with the “Naming Memorial.” Moderated by historian Dr. Rubina Möhring, the program will begin with a welcome address by Margit Fischer and a remembrance to the Honorable Barbara Prammer, late President of the National Council of Austria (2006-2014) named Chief Patron of the Event. Additional speakers include: Dr. Johanna Rachinger, General Director of the Austrian National Library, Oskar Deutsch, President of the Jewish Community, and Minister Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek. Chief Rabbi Chaim Eisenberg will provide the benediction. Doron Rabinovici will address the question “Who is a victim?” Family members will read a selection of archival letters presented in conjunction with the project’s “Memory Map” fabricated by international artist, Nikolaus Gansterer. Prof. Dr. Dieter Flury, principal flutist for the Vienna Philharmonic will prepare contemporary music pertinent to the period, performing with musicians from the Wiener Philharmoniker: Matthias Schorn (clarinet), Clemens Horak (oboe), and Benedikt Dinkhauser (bassoon). Prof. DDr. Oliver Rathkolb from the University of Vienna, and Rector Dr. Gerald Bast from the University of Applied Arts will provide closing remarks. Guests will then venture outside onto Josefsplatz to witness the “Naming Memorial,” a startling presentation of murdered victim’s names, projected onto the facades of the buildings surrounding Josefsplatz. The “Naming Memorial” was conceived by Karen Frostig, the project’s artistic director, and will be realized by Elisabeth Wilding, video artist.

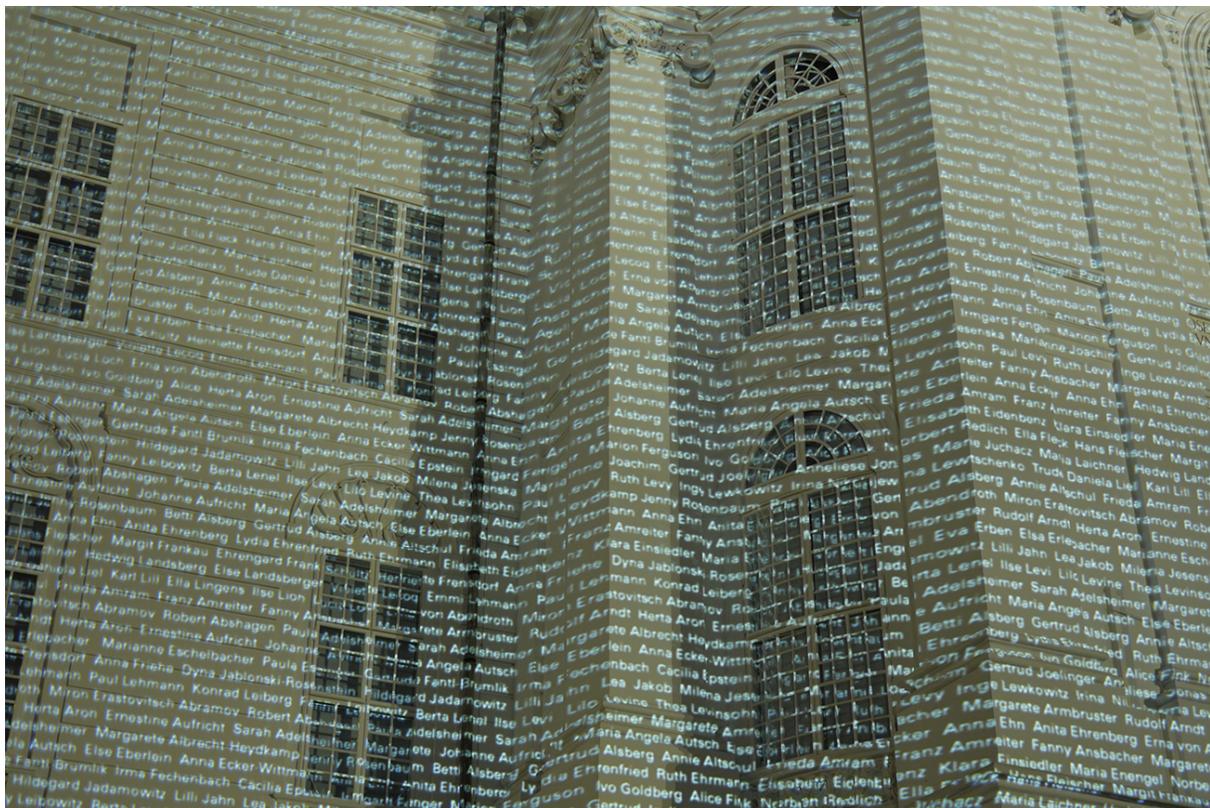


Photo credit: Axel Wolf Bierbaum

The Vienna Project's honorary board includes Nobel Laureate survivors Elie Wiesel and Walter Kohn, and Ambassador Stuart E. Eizenstat; and project partners include the University of Applied Arts, the Jewish Museum Wien, and Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien (IKG); and foundational support includes: National Fund, BMUKK, Zukunftsfond, the City of Vienna, multiple corporate sponsors and numerous private donors.

If you have any questions, please visit www.theviennaproject.org or contact: Karen Frostig, Ph.D., President and Artistic Director of *The Vienna Project*, at E-mail: karen@theviennaproject.org



Longer Press Release

New Interactive Memorial in Vienna Marking the 75th Anniversary Year of 1938

BOSTON/VIENNA, 22 September 2014--Karen Frostig, artist, writer, professor and granddaughter of Austrian Holocaust victims holding dual citizenship in the US and Austria, is Founding President of The Vienna Project, a new social action memorial project marking the 75th anniversary year of 1938/39. The Vienna Project opened with President Heinz Fischer on 23.October 2013 at the Odeon Theater and will close with a welcome address by Margit Fischer, with a remembrance to the Honorable Barbara Prammer, President of the National Council of Austria (2006-2014). The closing will take place on 18.October 2014 at the Austrian National Library at Hofburg Palace. ***The Vienna Project*** represents a new model of memorialization that links rigorous historical research with highly innovative artistic interventions.

The Vienna Project is the first public art memorial of its kind in Europe and the first public naming memorial in Vienna to symbolically represent multiple groups of persecuted Austrian victims and dissidents of National Socialism, presented in both an integrated and differentiated format, murdered between 1938-1945. The project axiom

“What happens when we forget to remember?” delivers a fresh message about history Austria’s history of persecution and murder under National Socialism, while making memory visible on the streets of Vienna. Developed as a participatory and generative model of collective remembrance, the memorial contains three historically significant focal points:

- 1) A “Naming Memorial,” a temporary memorial projecting 85,000 names of Austrian victims representing multiple groups, persecuted and murdered under National Socialism, will be displayed in a differentiated format onto the facades of buildings surrounding Josefsplatz.
- 2) “38 Sites” Sidewalk Installation/Memorial using stenciled sidewalk text to name 38 addresses in 16 districts, where crimes of persecution and exclusion, and instances of rescue took place between 1938-1945. The project’s “Memory Map” links the sites to the project’s smartphone app, creating a fresh interface between historic research, survivor interviews, and contemporary artistic production.
- 3) Opening ceremonies representing poetry, art, and music from multiple victim groups also featured Parcours des Erinnern, a series of video projections presented along the Danube Canal, tying the project axiom to contemporary human rights violations.

The Vienna Project’s Closing Ceremony, dedicated to the thousands of Austrian victims of National Socialism, brings together the “38 Sidewalk Installation” memorial with the “Naming Memorial.” Historian and award-winning journalist, Dr. Rubina Möhring will moderate the closing program. Beginning with the address by Margit Fischer, the program will include a welcome from Dr. Johanna Rachinger, General Director of the Austrian National Library; Dr. Karen Frostig, President of the Vienna Project; President Oskar Deutsch, of the Jewish Community; and Minister Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek. Chief Rabbi Chaim Eisenberg will provide the benediction. A talk by celebrated author Doron Rabinovici will address the question “Who is a victim?” A selection of archival letters solicited from all over the world and read by family members will be presented in conjunction with Nikolaus Gansterer’s “Memory Map,” made from copies of archival letters. The indoor program will conclude with closing remarks by Prof. DDr. Oliver Rathkolb from the University of Vienna, and Rector Dr. Gerald Bast from the University of Applied Arts. The program will be framed by a repertoire of contemporary music pertinent to this period, prepared by Prof. Dr. Dieter Flury, principal flutist for the Vienna Philharmonic, performed with Matthias Schorn (clarinet), Clemens Hosak (oboe), and Benedikt Dinkhauser (bassoon) from the Vienna Philharmonic. Guests will then venture outside onto Josefsplatz to witness a differentiated display of 85,000 names of Austrian victims of National Socialism projected on the facades of the buildings surrounding Josefsplatz. The “Naming Memorial,” was conceived and developed by the project’s

artistic director, Karen Frostig. Video artist, Elisabeth Wildling, will create a visual design to fully realize the memorial plan. The innovative design of *The Vienna Project's* Naming Memorial, which combines new technologies with fresh concepts linked to durational performance, is poised to make a new contribution to the art of memorialization.

The Vienna Project, designed to reach diverse audiences all over the city, began in 2013. Opening events at the Odeon Theatre featured the Wiener Philharmoniker's ensemble "The Philharmonics," poetry readings by the Jewish poet Robert Schindel, and a performance by Roma rap artist Sandra Selimovic, followed by a display of eight experimental video installations produced by faculty and students from the University of Applied Arts under the direction of Elisabeth Wildling, and situated along the Danube Canal. The memorial project was launched the very next day with 38 stencil sprays identifying the 38 memory sites located in sixteen districts. Continuous programming has occurred at the sites from November 2013 to September 2014. Using Smartphone technology and Social Media to stage a series of interactive encounters, interim programming includes performance art, installation art, dance, theater, poetry, public readings, guided tours, new Holocaust education curriculum, and video interviews published on the project web site and blog. The sites have become sites of engagement stimulating new conversations about memory in everyday places.

Funding for ***The Vienna Project*** comes from multiple sources, most notably the National Fund, Zukunftsfund, BMUKK, BMBF, MA-7 in conjunction with different Districts, The US Embassy, the Karl Kahane Foundation, and many corporate and private donors. ***The Vienna Project's*** Honorary Board includes Nobel Laureates Elie Wiesel and Walter Kohn, Ambassadors Stuart E. Eizenstat and Wolfgang M. Paul. Project partners include the University of Applied Arts, Jewish Museum Vienna, Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien (IKG), Wien Museum, Wiesenthal Institute and many others. Please visit our web site to gain an overview at www.theviennaproject.org

If you have any questions, please contact:

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save the date!

the vienna project

18.Oct. 2014

19:30
Closing Ceremony
Austrian National Library

21:00
Naming Memorial
Josefsplatz

Karen Frostig
Elisabeth Wilding
Jérôme Segal
Georg Traska
Nikolaus Gansterer
Waltraud Jungwirth
Kabren Levinson
Johanna Taufner
Ildiko Meny
Alexander Kosnopfl
Peter Mlczoch
Mathias Janko
Christian Wind
Kate Melchior

sponsors: Unique Public Relations GmbH/Pani Projection And Lighting Vertriebs GmbH/Infoscreen
Zukunftsfond/BMBF/National Fund/Kulturabteilung der Stadt Wien/Wiener Philharmoniker
Jewish Welcome Service/Kapsch AG/Ottakringer Brauerei AG/Donau Forum Druck GmbH www.theviennaproject.org

1938
EXHIBITION

History

The Vienna Project began in 2004, when Karen Frostig, artist, writer and professor, inherited letters written by her grandparents between 1938-1945, to her father living in exile. Translating the letters in 2005, making a journey of return to Vienna in 2006, and reclaiming Austrian citizenship in 2007 soon gave way to an emerging relationship between the artist and her father's homeland. *The Vienna Project* grew out of this process starting in 2009, as a new social action, public memory project. The memorial commemorates the 75th anniversary year when racial persecution began in Austria under Nazi rule, creating a contemporary encounter with the history of National Socialism regarding legacy and lesson.

The memorial project went through numerous reiterations before reaching its current state. Starting out as a graffiti naming memorial, the project has maintained an affinity with street art both in spirit and conceptual design. Using a participatory framework to engage the public in memory work, the project reflects a collaborative and decentralized model of production.

Frostig, founder and project president, established a series of partnerships with a variety of Austrian institutions early on, in order to situate the project in Vienna. Out of this process, an interdisciplinary project team was developed, comprised of Austrian artists, historians, web designers, educators and project managers.

Presenting the project at professional conferences in Europe, North America and South America beginning as early as 2010, publishing articles and book chapters starting in 2011, Frostig has been encouraged by the enthusiastic response of various audiences to the project's design. Concurrently, momentum builds in Austria as city and federal offices in Vienna pledge support for the memorial plan.

Three boards, an Honorary, Academic, and International Advisory Board were established early in 2012, comprised of forty-two scholars, historians, cultural historians, artists, writers, psychologists, scientists, lawyers, and educators. The interdisciplinary project team represents nineteen artists, historians, educators, web designers, media specialists, project managers and interns. Twenty international partnerships, located primarily in Vienna provide additional resources.



THE VIENNA PROJECT

CLOSING CEREMONY AND NAMING MEMORIAL

Place: Austrian National Library, Josefsplatz 1, A-1010 Wien

Date: 18. October 2014

Time: Program 19:30, Naming Memorial 21:00

Open: to the public

Web site: www.theviennaproject.org

Developed by director Karen Frostig, THE VIENNA PROJECT is a multi-dimensional, social action memorial project commemorating the 75th anniversary year of 1938. In remembrance of the thousands of Austrian victims of National Socialism representing seven victim groups, The Vienna Project team invites you to attend our Closing Ceremony at the Austrian National Library at the Hofburg Palace. The program will be moderated by Dr. Rubina Möhring and open with a welcome address by Margit Fischer with a remembrance to the Honorable Barbara Prammer, President of the National Council (2006-2014), named Ehrenschutz/Chief Patron of the Event. Remarks from Dr. Johanna Rachinger, President Oskar Deutsch, and Minister Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek will follow; Chief Rabbi Chaim Eisenberg will provide the benediction: Doron Rabinovici will address the question "Who is a victim?"; a selection of archival letters, will be read by family members, presented in conjunction with the project's "Memory Map." Contemporary music prepared by Prof. Dr. Dieter Flury, principal flutist for the Vienna Philharmonic will be performed with orchestra members: Matthias Schorn (clarinet), Clemens Horak (oboe), and Benedikt Dinkhauser (bassoon). Closing commentary will come from Prof. DDr. Oliver Rathkolb at the University of Vienna, and Rector Dr. Gerald Bast at the University of Applied Arts. Guests will then venture outside onto Josefsplatz to witness the "Naming Memorial," a startling presentation of 85,000 murdered victim's names projected onto the facades of the buildings surrounding Josefsplatz. The "Naming Memorial," conceived by Karen Frostig, the project's artistic director, will be realized by Elisabeth Wildling video artist..

Developed in cooperation with the Austrian National Library, sponsors include: Unique Public Relations GmbH//Pani Projection & Lighting Vertriebs GmbH//Kapsch Group AG//Wiener Philharmoniker//Ottakringer Getränke AG// Donau Forum Druck GmbH//Jüdisches Museum Wien//Zukunftsfond// Bundesministerium für Bildung und Frauen (BMBWF)// National Fund//Kulturabteilung der Stadt Wien (MA 7)//Jewish Welcome Service// Raiffeisen Meine Bank//INFOscreen//Brandeis University//Individual donors

Project Objectives

- To mark the Moment: the 75th anniversary of the Nazi takeover of Austria and the history of genocide and murder, slave labor and theft that followed; and secondly, to acknowledge the impending loss of the survivor community, impacting public memory as we know it
- To create a public vehicle of remembrance that enables individuals, families and communities, descendants of victims, dissidents, perpetrators and bystanders to engage in collective acts of remembrance
- To make visible the history of the Holocaust and National Socialism on the streets of Vienna
- To develop a memorial bound by the historic record; a memorial that is imaginative and inventive about the delivery of history without distorting the historic record
- To produce a new collaborative model of memorialization that features a participatory framework
- To create a lively and engaging format of remembrance that elicits a public response

Images



Artist: Stefan Artzmann Photo: Christian Wind



Artist: Christina Romirer

Photo: Kabren Levinson



The Parliament

Photo: Christian Wind

Preview Test Images for Naming Memorial



The Austrian National Library: concept, Karen Frostig and designer, Elisabeth Wildling Photo: Axel Wolf Bierbaum

Honorary Board

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Ambassador Stuart E. Eizenstat

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Fritz P. Molden (Deceased 11.January 2014)

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Mag.phil.Dr.phil. Heidemarie Uhl

Prof. Ruth Weisberg

Prof. James E. Young

Audience

The project tells a national narrative about the territory of Austria between 1938-1945. The project serves multiple groups connected to that history including survivors of National Socialism and families of survivors, dissidents and perpetrators, living in and outside of Austria. These groups include: Jews, Roma and Sinti, mentally ill and physically and mentally disabled, homosexual, Jehovah's Witnesses, Carinthian Slovenian resisters, communists, socialists, and dissident groups. In addition, the project serves minority groups living in Vienna today, such as Turkish, Russian and Serbo-Croatian-Bosnian groups. The project also supports teachers and students learning about Holocaust education, as well as government officials developing social programs to address a variety of civic issues. The project is dedicated to examining racism of the past alongside present-day expressions of prejudice, Xenophobia, and anti-Semitism.

Project Timeline

Project Inception

2009-2013 Development of the Vienna Project: ideas, plan, support, partnerships and funding

Public Presentation and Preparation

March 2013 Press Release, Newsletter, Blog, Kickstarter campaign
 Research Seminar, University of Vienna, Spring 2013
 Stencil and map development, Spring & Summer 2013
 Law Seminar, University of Vienna, Summer 2013

Project Begins

23.Oct. 2013

Opening Events

Odeon Theatre: “The Philharmonics” ensemble, reading by Robert Schindel and performance by Sandra Selimovic, and Parcours des Erinnerns/video projections by Transmedia Art students at University of Applied Arts, with Elisabeth Wildling, along the Danube Canal

24.Oct. 2013

Mapping Vienna and Sidewalk Installation Memorial Project

Teaching Seminar, October 28, 2013
 November Pogromnacht events

Ongoing

Smartphone app

Performance Art

Survivor interviews

Guided tours

Community Forums

Reading Marathon with students at 38 sites, October 17, 2014

Closing Events

18.October 2014

Closing Ceremony

Austrian National Library: with Margit Fischer, Dr. Johanna Rachinger, President Oskar Deutsch, Minister Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek; Benediction by Chief Rabbi Chaim Eisenberg; talk by writer Doron Rabinovici “Who is a victim?”; “Memory Map”, with family members reading archival letter; and contemporary music by Dieter Flury, Matthias Schorn, Clemens Hosak, and Benedikt Dinkhauser of the Wiener Philharmoniker

Naming Memorial projections at Josefsplatz

Post-project activity

Spring 2015

Academic Symposium in partnership with the Wien Museum and the Wiesenthal Institute (tbc)

Fall 2015

Academic Symposium in partnership with the Austrian Cultural Forum NYC (tbc)

Ongoing

Website and Smartphone app maintained

Project Announcement

23. October 2013 to 18. October 2014 !

“What happens when we forget to remember”...***The Vienna Project***, a new social action memorial project in Vienna, was launched on 23. October 2013 at the Odeon Theater to mark the 75th anniversary year of the Anschluss in 1938, when racial persecution officially began in Austria. The project closes at the Austrian National Library at the Hofburg Palace, one year later on 18. October 2014, a few days before Austria’s National Day. Founding President, Karen Frostig is the granddaughter of Austrian victims of the Holocaust.

For more: www.theviennaproject.org and www.memoryplatz.at

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THE VIENNA PROJECT 2013—2014

OPENING 23. OKTOBER 2013, 18:00 — 23:00
ODEON, TABORSTRASSE 10, 1020 WIEN



Bild: Nicholas Gunsterer, MemoMap

www.theviennaproject.org

ERÖFFNUNGSPROGRAMM
VORSTELLUNG DES PROJEKTES
ENSEMBLE DER WIENER PHILHARMONIKER
LESUNG ROBERT SCHINDEL
PERFORMANCE SANDRA SELIMOVIC
PARCOURS DES ERINNERNS — TRANSMEDIALE KUNST

