

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 Parours 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, with a remembrance to the Honorable Barbara Prammer, President of the National Council of Austria (2006-2014) and named Chief Patron of the Event, followed by remarks from Dr. Johanna Rachinger, General Director of the Austrian National Library, Minister Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek, and Oskar Deutsch, President of the Jewish Community. 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,” conceived by Karen Frostig, the project’s artistic director, will be realized by Elisabeth Wildling, 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

Project team

Prof. Dr. Karen Frostig, President and Artistic Director (AT/US)
Dr. Rubina Möhring, Historian, Journalist and moderator for Closing Ceremony (AT)
Dr. Jérôme Segal, Lead Historian for 38 sites (AT)
Dr. Georg Traska, Master of Ceremonies for Opening Events and Oral Historian (AT)
Univ.-Ass. MMag.Art Elisabeth Wildling, Video Artist for Naming Memorial and Facilitator of Parours des Erinnerns (AT)
Univ.-Lekt.Mag.Art Nikolaus Gansterer, Memory Map (AT)
Kabren Levinson, Chief Technology Officer (US)
Dr. Ildiko Meny, Curator for Performance (AT)
Univ.-Lekt.Mag.Art Waltraud Jungwirth, Sidewalk Stencil Designer (AT)
Johanna Taufner, Social Media Manager (AT)
Kate Melchior, Tour Researcher and Guide (US)
Liza Schluder & Rosa Czemin, Stencil Sprayers (AT)
Mathias Janko, Videographer (AT)
Christian Wind, Photographer (AT)
Peter Mlczech, Consultant, translator and tour guide (AT)
Margot Landl, Assistant Blogger (AT)
Shachar Brenner, Database developer (IS)





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 Ehrendoktor/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 (BMBF)// National Fund//Kulturabteilung der Stadt Wien (MA 7)//Jewish Welcome Service// Raiffeisen Meine Bank//INFOscreen//Brandeis University//Individual donors