

Press Release

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

BOSTON/VIENNA, 1. October 2013--Karen Frostig, artist, writer, professor and granddaughter of Austrian Holocaust victims is Founding President of a new social action memorial project ***The Vienna Project***. The memorial opens on October 23, 2013 at the Odeon Theatre, featuring the Vienna Philharmoniker's ensemble "The Philharmonics," with poetry readings by Robert Schindel and a performance by Sandra Selimovic, followed by video projections by students at the University of Applied Arts Vienna onto the Danube Canal. The project unfolds over the next six months as a series of public installations, closing on 8. May 2014 in The Augarten. ***The Vienna Project*** is a new memory project about National Socialism, which embodies art, technology, history and education. Its honorary board includes Nobel Laureates Elie Wiesel and Walter Kohn, who were also survivors of the Holocaust, Ambassador Stuart E. Eizenstat, named Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State on Holocaust-Era Issues under the Clinton Administration, Wolfgang M. Paul, former Austrian Ambassador to Israel, the President of Bard College Leon Botstein, and Harvard University Cabot Professor of Social Ethics Herbert C. Kelman. Project partners include the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien (IKG), the Jewish Welcome Service, the University of Applied Arts, the European Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Wien Museum, the Jewish Museum Wien, and the Wiesenthal Institute.

The project axiom "**What happens when we forget to remember?**" delivers a fresh message about history that is in keeping with the historic record, while making memory visible on the streets of Vienna. Developed as a participatory and generative model of collective remembrance, the memorial contains three focal points:

- 1) Opening ceremonies that includes building and water projections,
- 2) Sidewalk installation program that features 38 addresses where crimes against citizens took place, and
- 3) A closing ceremony featuring the names of 90,000+ persecuted Austrian victims and dissidents projected onto the surface of the Flak-Türme Tower in The Augarten.

The Vienna Project will be the first public memorial in Europe to commemorate multiple victim and dissident groups, on record within a given country, murdered between 1938-1945. The project conforms to archival practice at the DÖW, whereby the group identity of the different groups of victims is maintained. The opening event will take place on 23. October 2013, beginning at the historic Odeon Theatre in the second district followed by *Parcours des Erinnerns* along the Danube Canal. Join the President of Austria, Dr. Heinz Fischer, and National Council President, Barbara Prammer, and Executive Councillor for Culture and Science in the City of Vienna, Dr. Andreas Mailath-Pokorny, for an evening of music, poetry and performance. Moving from the Odeon to the Danube Canal, students from the Department of Transmedia Art, headed by Brigitte Kowanz at the University of Applied Arts Vienna will present an imaginative collection of video projections, objects and performative interventions along the canal. Work from Stefan Arztmann, Hazel Brill, Joana Coleman, Stefano D'Alessio, Martina Menegnon, Daniel Niemand, Christina Romirer, and Natasa Siencnik, developed under the artistic direction of Elisabeth Wildling and in cooperation with Niki Passath, will address the central question "what happens when we forget to remember?"

The Sidewalk Installation project begins the very next day demarcating 38 memory sites on the streets of Vienna where crimes of exclusion, humiliation, aggression and rescue took place starting in 1938. Dr. Jérôme Segal, worked with historians in Vienna and at the DÖW, and with historians at the US Holocaust Museum in Washington DC and at Yad Vashem to identify 38 sites of victimization and resistance, populating 16 districts across Vienna. This program will usher in six months of performance art, guided tour programming, and audiotapes that will be reviewed on the project blog and uploaded to the project smartphone app. The closing event will feature the naming memorial, presenting the names of 90,000+ Austrian victims of National Socialism, projected onto the Flaktower in Augarten over three nights.

The Vienna Project is supported by the following foundations: National Fund, BMUKK, Zukunftsfond, the Karl Kahane Foundation, the Embassy of the United States, the City of Vienna, multiple corporate sponsors and numerous private donors.

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