

MEMORIES UNDER THE MICROSCOPE Excursion on Wednesdays in May from 4 to 8 pm with reservation in small groups only.

Participatory Excursion with special focus on neuroanatomical research, definitions of “Abnormality” and encounter of art and science. Tour includes the visit of Narrenturm Anatomical Museum, Café Landmann and Naturhistorisches Museum (NHM) Vienna.

Cave: Some of the exhibits at Narrenturm - Anatomical Museum- might be disturbing! Entrance fee to the Narrenturm: 2 Euro, to the Museum of Natural History: 10 Euro, contact and reservation: Ildiko_meny@hotmail.com

BACKGROUND: Initiated by Prof. Dr. Karen Frostig, from Boston (MA) daughter of Dr. Benjamin Frostig, who was expelled from Vienna University in 1938, The **Vienna Memory Project** is an interdisciplinary Art/Science Project. Inspired by letters from Benjamin Frostig, Karen Frostig researched her families past and gathered a team of ten professional Artists/Scientists in Vienna to artistically visualize the Holocaust and the history and murder of all the persecuted groups regarded as unworthy to live under National Socialism. Jerome Segal and Karen Frostig selected to further investigate 38 memory sites where people were expelled and threatened in Vienna in 1938. This map can be viewed and downloaded through the **Smartphone Application**. <http://theviennaproject.org/app/> Jerome Segal and Georg Traska conducted oral interviews with survivors related to some of these sites. All of these 38 Sites in Vienna are spray-marked (by students of Waltraud Jungwirth/Angewandte Kunst) with the following sentence:

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE FORGET TO REMEMBER?



Pictures of spray marks by Christian Wind and Ildiko Meny and Karen Frostig at the Jewish Museum

From October 2013 to October 2014 Ildiko Meny (MD/MPH) initiated and curated artistic performances at several of these 38 memory sites: silent vigils, “pansy” planting at **Resselpark** in memory of persecuted Homosexuals. “Move this World” dance lesson in front of the **Naturhistorisches Museum** (which was involved in researching and exhibiting about jewish “abnormality”). The interactive “Memory Games” by Nina Prader at ESRA sharing stories of exile. Ossi Yalons “Well of Remembrance” inspired by the “Kristallnacht” at **Temple Marpe Lanefesh altes AKH** and a public reading by students from Angewandte, Classes of Esther Dischereit and Ferdinand Schmatz together with Performance Artist Zsuzsanna Balla at the **former Palais Rothschild** today’s Workers Chamber.



Performances: “pansy” Planting with Andreas Brunner, Dance lesson at NHM, Temple Marpe Lanefesh with Ossi Yalon (IL)

All these performances were of participative nature to reach out to the public in a straightforward way and to involve visitors in actions to remember the past in connection to contemporary art and partly in cooperation with NGOs, which are engaged in promoting tolerance and mutual Understanding (Q-Wien, ESRA, Move this World). Currently Karen Frostig is working on a publication and to setup a traveling exhibit with performances and teaching curriculum (If you or your organization is interested in hosting the exhibit, please contact us!).

THE EXCURSION:

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consequently engages the audience in exploring together some of Vienna's past and present marvels of life science and natural history. This tour is conceptualized by Ildiko Meny, but shall be jointly completed by the visitors and the knowledge they will share during the tours. Therefore, visitors are encouraged to feed into **The Vienna Project Facebook group** <https://www.facebook.com/TheViennaProject> before and after the tour and interact with the group during the tour with relevant experience. Thus, we prefer small groups of up to ten participants and take 4-5 hours to take time to listen to each other (including the visit of two Museums and Café Landmann).

1. The excursion starts at **Temple Marpe Lanefesh** at **Altes AKH** because we think it is important to remember that the Jewish community had a temple to mourn and pray at one of the former most renowned hospitals in Austria. We would like to mourn/ remember that some of the famous doctors at this hospital were Jewish and had to leave the country or died in the camps.



FIVE PLACES WE WILL VISIT: Marpe Lanefesh, Narrenturm, Palais Ephrussi, Café Landmann, Venus von Willendorf at NHM

2. **Do you think** the "**Narrenturm**" close to the Temple as one of the oldest mental health asylums is round with 28 rooms each level and how Architecture has important influence on Mental Health? Where do we stand in 2015 regarding the definition, protection and therapeutically concepts of people suffering from mental health problems?

3. **Do you think** British potter and author Edmund de Waal became obsessed of researching his family history after he inherited a collection of Japanese Netsukes, once collected from his wealthy ancestors living at **Palais Ephrussi** ?

4. **Do you think** Berta Zuckerkandels-Szeps' "Salon" located above the **Café Landmann** (her husband Emil Zuckerkandel was a researcher at AKH) hosted Artists like Gustav Klimt and Gustav Mahler and while openly discussing Art and Science the Painter Klimt had the opportunity to microscope? Where did Klimt use this inspiration to paint semen and eggs as symbolic ornaments into his famous paintings ?

5. **Do you think** that the Venus of Willendorf, exhibited in **Museum of Natural History** is one of the most precious sculptures of the world?

Interested in joining to visit these sites and to participate in the discussion?

Please contact: ildiko.meny@hotmail.com to make a reservation!
Looking forward to welcome you in Vienna!