

4 channel video projection + sound installation / 6 plasma monitors

sigrid hackenberg

new works 2002-2003

THIS MEANS YOU

N a z i s m

T h e H o l o c a u s t

+

T h e R e s i s t a n c e



THIS MEANS YOU

Nazism, the Holocaust, and the Resistance 1933-1945

A video projection and sound installation by Sigrid Hackenberg, 2003

4 LCD video projectors

4 dvd players

4 plexi-glass panels

1 amplifier & speakers

4 cd players / 3 cordless headphones

Including excerpts from:

None of Us Will Return

by Charlotte Delbo

Translated by John Githens

copyright 1968 Grove Press, Inc.

courtesy:

Georges Borchardt, Inc., NY, & Grove Press, Inc., NY

Scroll of Agony: The Warsaw Diary of Chaim A. Kaplan

by Chaim A. Kaplan

Translated from the Hebrew and edited by Dr. Abraham I. Katsh

copyright Dr. Abraham I. Katsh 1965

courtesy: Mrs. Estelle Katsh & The Estate of Dr. Abraham I. Katsh

THIS MEANS YOU-Nazism, the Holocaust, and the Resistance
A video and sound installation by Sigrid Hackenberg, 2003

As we enter the 21st century, and history recedes into itself, at the lightning speed that information travels, I have encountered a fascination with extending the moment of history. My installations speak to dramatic events and turning points in history and challenge the viewer to engage in the work as active and thinking participants. Cinematic in scale and epic in character, the recent installations allude to Richard Wagner's concept of the "Gesamtkunstwerk (Total Work Of Art)" and Walter Benjamin's notion of the "Trauerarbeit (Work of Mourning)."

Focusing on Nazism, the Holocaust, and the Resistance, "THIS MEANS YOU," develops several characters and voices that stem from the period between 1933 through 1945. There are three main figures that appear in the installation: an SS Officer (accompanied by a German shepherd), a Figure that is representative of the Victims of Nazi Crimes Against Humanity, and a Resistance Fighter. A soundtrack of whispered voices taken from Holocaust memoirs further accompanies the installation. The voices that appear in the installation are taken from excerpts of the following texts: *None of Us Will Return*, by Charlotte Delbo, translated by John Githens, (1968), and *Scroll of Agony: The Warsaw Diary of Chaim A. Kaplan*, by Chaim A. Kaplan. Translated from the Hebrew and edited by Dr. Abraham I. Katsh, (1965). In its final presentation, the voice-over will appear in English, French, German, and Hebrew.

Scroll of Agony: The Warsaw Diary of Chaim A. Kaplan

Translated from the Hebrew and edited by Dr. Abraham I. Katch
©Dr. Abraham I. Katch 1965
Courtesy Mrs. Estelle Katsh and The Estate of Dr. Abraham I. Katsh, New York

September 1, 1939

A New World War

DURING THE MORNING hours of the first of September, 1939, war broke out between Germany and Poland and, indirectly, between Germany and Poland's allies, England and France. This time the allies will stick to their word and not betray Poland as they betrayed Czechoslovakia. For the time being, Poland alone will suffer all the hardships of the war, because there are no common frontiers between Poland and her allies. We are witnessing the dawn of a new era in the history of the world.

This war will indeed bring destruction upon human civilization. But this is a civilization which merits annihilation and destruction. There is no doubt that Hitlerian Nazism will ultimately be defeated, for in the end the civilized nations will rise up to defend the liberty which the German barbarians seek to steal from mankind. However, I doubt that we will live through this carnage. The bombs filled with lethal gas will poison every living being, or we will starve because we will have no means of livelihood.....

Poland is the chosen one, and the first arrows of the war between civilization and barbarism are falling upon her. But she will be joined by other nations, and united they will destroy the modern huns. Since our enemy is the enemy of the whole human race, someone or other will come and avenge our spilled blood.....



THIS MEANS YOU Nazism, the Holocaust, and the Resistance 1933-1945
A four channel video projection and sound installation
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THIS MEANS YOU Nazism, the Holocaust, and the Resistance 1933-1945

excerpted texts:

none of us will return by charlotte delbo / translated by John Githens/1968
 courtesy George Borchardt, Inc., New York, & Grove Press, Inc., New York
 Scroll of Agony: The Warsaw Diary of Chaim A. Kaplan, translated from the
 Hebrew & edited by Dr. Abraham I. Katsh/1965
 courtesy Mrs. Estelle Katsh & The Estate of Dr. Abraham I. Katsh, New York
 4 video projectors, 4 plexi-glass panels, amplifier and speakers, dvd players

a video and sound installation by Sigrid Hackenberg, 2003

The Stable, Brooklyn, D.U.M.B.O., New York, November 14 - December 14, 2003

charlotte delbo
none of us will return

Translated by John Githens/1968
Courtesy Grove Press Inc, New York
George Borchardt Inc., New York

STREET FOR ARRIVALS, STREET FOR DEPARTURES There are people arriving. They scan the crowd of those who wait seeking those who wait for them. They kiss them and they say that they are tired from the journey.

There are people leaving. They say goodbye to those who are not leaving and they kiss the children.

There is a street for people arriving and a street for people leaving.

There is a cafe called "Arrivals" and a cafe called "Departures."

There are people arriving and there are people leaving.

But there is a station where those arriving are the same as those leaving

a station at which those arriving have never arrived, to which those leaving have never returned

it is the biggest station in the world.

This is the station at which they arrive, wherever they come from.

They arrive here after days and nights

after crossing whole countries

they arrive here with children, even babies, who were not supposed to have been taken

They have brought their children because you do not part with children for this journey.

Those who had gold brought it along because they thought that gold might be useful.

Everyone brought his dearest possessions because you must not leave what is dear to you when you go far away.

Everyone has brought his life along, above all it was his life that he had to bring along.....

Portraits / Nazism, the Holocaust, and the Resistance 1933-1945 by sigrid hackenberg

I have been working on a series of portraits that present European subjects from the historical period between 1933 through 1945. Focusing on Nazism, the Holocaust, and the Resistance, the portraits present individuals who either fell victim to Nazi Crimes against Humanity and/or actively resisted the Nazi Ideology and Terror. The portraits are displayed on 42 inch flat plasma screen monitors and appear very still, almost like moving photographs or paintings. Each portrait is on DVD disc and is silent.

1. Portrait for Hannah Arendt, Berlin, 1933

Hannah Arendt is a prominent and celebrated German, Jewish, intellectual figure who escaped fascist Germany in 1933. She lived and worked in Paris and later immigrated to the United States and became an American citizen. She is best known for her seminal writings on totalitarian regimes such as: "Origins of Totalitarianism," and "Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil."

2. Portrait for Rushka Korchak, Vilna, Lithuania, January 1, 1942

Rushka Korchak is a figure from the Vilna Ghetto resistance movement who fought the fascists during the Vilna Ghetto Uprising in 1942. She was a member of the United Partisan Organization: FPO- Fareynitke Partisaner Organzatsye.

3. Portrait of (Unknown) Russian Partisan

This portrait recalls the numerous partisans who fought the Nazi Army behind enemy front lines in the Russian and Eastern European territories during the 1940's.

4. Portrait for Gerda Weissmann, Volary, Czechoslovakia, May, 8, 1945; Holocaust Survivor

Gerda Weissmann currently lives in Arizona with her husband Kurt Klein. Weissmann is a Holocaust survivor who was liberated by a German-American military officer (her husband to be), in Czechoslovakia, in 1945. Weissmann was 16 years old when the Nazi Army invaded Poland. She was deported to a series of concentration camps. She is the only surviving member of her family. Weissmann has published a memoir entitled "All But My Life," and is the subject of an HBO documentary.

5. Portrait for Serna Morgenstern, Ponary, Lithuania, executed by the SS, October 2nd, 1941

Serna Morgenstern represents a victim of Nazi Terror and the "Final Solution."

6. Figure portraying the horror invoked by Nazi Crimes Against Humanity



Portrait for Hannah Arendt, Berlin, 1933
42 inch plasma monitor, dvd, silent, by sigrid hackenberg, 2002



Portrait for Rushka Korchak, Vilna, Lithuania, January 1, 1942
42 inch plasma monitor, dvd, silent, by sigrid hackenberg, 2002



Portrait of (Unknown) Russian Partisan
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Portrait for Serna Morgenstern, Ponary, Lithuania, executed by the SS, October 2nd, 1941
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Portrait for Gerda Weissmann, Volary, Czechoslovakia, May, 8, 1945; Holocaust Survivor
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Figure portraying the horror invoked by Nazi Crimes Against Humanity
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(detail)