

F A T H O M I Z I N G M E M O R Y
*An Interactive and Multimedial Project in Remembrance of People in the Resistance
Against the Nazi-Regime
by ORANGE 94.0 and V. Nino Jaeger*

TEXT: V. NINO JAEGER



Search-Touch-Listen-Room

Photo Michèle Pagel 2011

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FUNDING, ORGANISATION PARTNER: RADIO ORANGE 94.0

Concept

Actually it is quite simple: As human beings we know that we are capable of doing things we would rather forget, because envisioning them exceeds all the bounds of imaginable and understandable – we can't bear it, that we made something happen like that.

We rather idealize ourselves being people involved in culture and arts than consider the possibility of being denunciators, fellow travelers, well-behaved collaborators and contributors to a homicidal industry and bureaucracy. The fact that there will always exist people who make a different choice and decide to join resistance or always have been somewhere known for its active resistance, gives us an unpleasant feeling.

Actually understanding it isn't simple at all. There are at least three – I would like to call them existential – desiderata in this context: Never forget, never let it happen again and never stop trying to understand, how it could happen at all.

People, who e.g. have just started a search of memory, share these three needs together with those, who survived the Nazi regime (and those, who didn't).

We also know: If we stop remembering our precedents will be irrevocably dead. In this respect the Nazis and their supporters should not succeed.

Therefore it was extraordinarily important to involve as many people as possible right from the beginning. Involve them through workshops, as speakers of testimonial texts for the audio-exhibition in the container or as project partners, who might reach a large audience through their activities and events.

Approaching the topic "Remembering resistance fighters, victims and survivors of the Nazi-Regime" it was important to use different media. It is the media that defines the form and therefore the content as well.

Some examples:

- An audio-exhibition that invites the audience into a container, to search, touch and listen.
- A star-shaped wall-object working with text-layers, that can be written on or drawn at by the public.
- Radiobroadcasts
- Workshops
- Photography (siehe „Maria Stallectew 11/9 1931“, Jaeger)
- Video (siehe Frank Hagen, Tinzl/Flunger)
- Skulptural (siehe z.B. Erinnerungskörper und Sternobjekt)
- Intervention in the agora (siehe z.B. zenklo TM)



Installation Search-Touch-Listen-Room and Starobject

At MQ, Vienna, May 2011

Photo V. Nino Jaeger 2011



Search-Touch-Listen-Room

Photo Michèle Pagel 2011



Workshop with Gymnasium 19 held by

V. Nino Jaeger

On May 6th 2011

Photo V. Nino Jaeger 2011

Answering the question, which acts/memories should be particularly remembered in this project: People should be memorized the most, that weren't given much room concerning remembrance and partly even have been sealed as perpetrators in Austria – individuals in resistance. I wanted to increase the visibility of three different groups: organized and unorganized resistance of Carinthian Slovenians, resistance of Jewish people in the Balkans, queer people, who can be called part of resistance just for choosing their way of living and life.

Although this decision has been made, the question, which testimonials to choose, hasn't been completely answered yet. It would be helpful to deepen the studies of further categories. As I refuse categories adamantly, I decided to be as frugal as possible with categories.



Search-Touch-Listen-Room
At MQ, Vienna, May 2011
Photo V. Nino Jaeger 2011



Bodies of Remembrance
For 14 Roma forced laborers.
Extras in the Leni Riefenstahl
movie „Tiefeland“.
Materials:
Paper, straw, yarn, water colour, ink,
typewriter printed names and dates of birth.
Cues: Responsibility of artists,
delicate human life.
Photo Michèle Pagel 2011



Search-Touch-Listen-Room
Photo V. Nino Jaeger 2011

There is nothing like „the“ history. History is always fragmental and dependent on what I look for, what I can find, what I already know and what I believe in. History is something in constant motion. The audio-exhibition within the container and its creation reflects this thought.

Visitors of the exhibition can only listen to the audio-files, if they are willing to look for them by touching and investigating the inner wall. There are several invisible buttons, located beneath a membrane, lining the inner surface of the container-wall, that have to be pressed to replay the audio-file.



Search-Touch-Listen-Room
Photo Michèle Pagel 2011

To some extent the stories told within the 30 audio-files complement one another in substance. Visitors won't have a clue, what they will find. Containing 30 contributions the container or exhibition is in all but name overloaded. Each visitor has to decide for herself, how many audio-files she wants to listen to and it might be that some of the switches will not be found at all.



Workshop Gymnasium 19 held by V. Nino Jaeger In February 2011 Photo Lilli Kern 2011



V. Nino Jaeger, Studio Radio ORANGE 94.0 Photo Michèle Pagel 2011



Classmeeting Object Sculpture on May 18th 2011 Photo Michèle Pagel 2011

The surface of the freestanding, star-shaped wall, the second part of the installation, is working with three layers of text. I will apply the first layer. The next layer will be applied by pupils during a workshop and the third layer visitors of the exhibition and others will apply. As the first layer consists of hidden words, written with lemon-ink that shall be made visible for its viewers through the ambivalent medium of fire – standing for destruction and renewal at the same time – it plays with the idea of some invisible, secret, forgotten and dangerous knowledge.



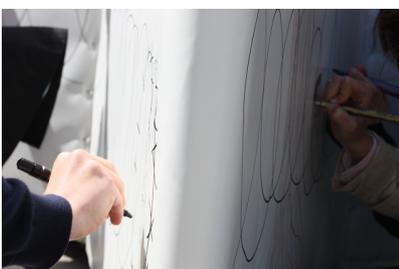
Starobject, first text layer: Knowledge and remembrance Photo V. Nino Jaeger 2011



Starobject, first text layer: Anti-Semitism and Shoa Photo V. Nino Jaeger 2011



Starobject, first text layer: Denunciation and material gain Photo V. Nino Jaeger 2011



Starobject, second layer is created. Workshop Gymnasium 19, held by V. Nino Jaeger on May 6th .2011 Photo Michèle Pagel 2011



Starobject with three text layers. Photo V. Nino Jaeger 2011



Visitors leave impressions on Starobject - third text layer is being created. Photo V. Nino Jaeger 2011

The container, but also the concept of the star-shaped wall reflects the tension of invisibility/inaudibility in relation to its opposite, visibility/audibility. There is also the idea of a skin, a membrane that has a possibility to hide things lying beneath it. It is about vulnerability and how we handle this vulnerability. The membrane embodies a medium, a mediator of knowledge and reminds us of our existence, knowledge, we carry around and a lore that really gets us; gets close to our bones. A kind of wisdom or knowledge, we can try to bring out from beneath. Visibility and invisibility in this context seem to confront us with the question: Who and what kind of content shall be memorized or be excluded from our memory-process, and how and in what way?



Johanna Tinzl/Stefan Flunger
 „I don't have much more to say about the wall, except it kept us well inside./Sonst weiss ich über die Mauer nicht viel zu sagen, ausser, dass sie uns gut eingeschlossen hat.“
 Exhibition view VBKÖ
 May/June 2011
 Photo Michèle Pagel 2011



Frank Hagen
 »unease, or what happened between 1938 and '45?/unbeHagen, oder und was war von 1938 bis '45?«
 Video 2010
 Artist's talk, May 15th 2011
 At Conatiner/Search-Touch-Listen-Room
 Videostill



zenkloTM
 „Are you completely integrated?/Sind sie voll integriert?“
 Intervention in public space, MQ
 May 14th 2011
 Photo Michèle Pagel 2011

Another main focus lies on the examination of questions like: What does the NS-past mean for today? What are we trying to understand? And where are we now – what happens now? That's the reason why there are contributions to the audio-exhibition that refer to current matters.

To come to an end, let me choose some final keywords: review this day and age!



„Radio workshop: Voices of Remembrance/ Radiowerkstatt: Stimmen der Erinnerung „
 Workshop held by Frank Hagen
 Live-broadcast on ORANGE 94.0
 May 6th 2011
 Photo Karolina Dabrowski 2011



Lecture „Anti-Semitism because of Auschwitz? About Hatred against the Victims/ Antisemitismus wegen Auschwitz? -Zum Hass auf die Opfer“
 Andreas Peham
 DÖW - Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes
 Mai 10th 2011
 Photo Michèle Pagel 2011



City walk in Vienna with Petra Unger
 „About Vanishing Women - Perpetrators and and Victims: About History of Expelled, Vanished, Murdered Women and Nazi-Women/ Vom Verschwinden der Frauen - Täterinnen und Opfer: Zur Geschichte der vertriebenen, verschwundenen, ermordeten Frauen und nationalsozialistischen Täterinnen“
 May 17th 2011
 Photo Michèle Pagel 2011



„Repolitisation! Talks about History
Politik in Post-Nazism/ Gespräche zur
Geschichtspolitik im Postnazismus“
trafo-k
May 11th 2011
Photo Werner Prokop 2011



„Relay of Remembrance: What will last?
Pupils talk about their Dreams and
Associations/Staffellauf des Erinnerns:
Was bleibt? Oberstufe-Schüler_innen
erzählen Träume und Assoziationen“
Workshop with painter and architect
Wolf Werdigier
May 2011
Photo Michèle Pagel 2011



„Pupils on traces of
the past - the School building
Kenyongasse since 1938/
Eine Maruraklasse auf den
Spuren der Vergangenheit
- das Schulgebäude
Kenyongasse seit 1938“
Verein Gedenkdienst
Radio show
May 6th 2011
Photo Michèle Pagel 2011



The installation as a space for workshops
Photo Michèle Pagel 2011



The installation as a space for discussion
Photo Michèle Pagel 2011

Radio shows till now – the airwaves axis:

Helga Kinsky - an Interview. Surviving witness./Helga Kinsky - ein Interview. Zeitzeugin. By V. Nino Jaeger.
<http://o94.at/programs/radio-unsichtbar//emission?emission%5fid=966576>

About the Project „Fathomizing Memory“ - Radio show by the queer-feminist radioworkshop group./Zum Projekt
"Fathomizing Memory" - Sendung von der queer-feministischen Radioworkshopgruppe bei ORANGE 94.0
<http://sendungsarchiv.o94.at/get.php?id=094pr5414>

Queer Hebrews. By V. Nino Jaeger.
<http://sendungsarchiv.o94.at/get.php?id=094pr5409>

Radio Show with Dr. Miroslav Demajo – Federation of Jewish Communities in Serbia. By V. Nino Jaeger.
<http://sendungsarchiv.o94.at/get.php?id=094pr5410> Part 1 / Teil 1
<http://sendungsarchiv.o94.at/get.php?id=094pr5411> Part 2 / Teil 2

About the Project „Fathomizing Memory“ /Über das Projekt "Fathomizing Memory" - Widerstandskämpfer_innen im Nazi-Regime – ein Erinnerungsprojekt. By Elisabeth Samhaber, Matthias Male, V. Nino Jaeger.
<http://sendungsarchiv.o94.at/get.php?id=094pr5413>

Resistance against NS-Regime and Facism: Carinthian Partisans./Widerstand gegen NS-Herrschaft und Faschismus: Kärntner Partisan_innen. By V. Nino Jaeger.
<http://sendungsarchiv.o94.at/get.php?id=094pr5412>

Pupils on Traces of the Past: The School Building Kenyongasse since 1938./Eine Maturaklasse auf den Spuren der Vergangenheit - das Schulgebäude Kenyongasse seit 1938. Radio show by pupils of class 5B.
<http://o94.at/programs/neues-aus-der-orangerie//emission?emission%5fid=943115>

Radio Workshop: Voices of Remembrance. Teens Talk: Workshop and Radio Show with pupils. Workshop by Frank Hagen./Radiowerkstatt: Stimmen der Erinnerung. Teens Talk: Workshop und Sendung mit Schüler_innen. Workshop mit Frank Hagen.
<http://o94.at/programs/neues-aus-der-orangerie//emission?emission%5fid=937026>



Photo for the project

Cues: Graffiti, want to be remembered /to eternalize oneself, to be forgotten, uncertainty /not knowing.

Title: „Maria Stalleckew 11/9 1931“

Photo by V. Nino Jaeger 2009

For further information: <http://fathomizingmemory.o94.at/>

For questions or anything else please contact: V. Nino Jaeger office@ninojaeger.com

<http://o94.at/projects/FATHOMIZINGmemory>

http://fathomizingmemory.o94.at/?category_name=multimediale-installation

<http://www.mqw.at/MQ10/>

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