



# Yad Vashem

Window of memories

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## Window of memories

## Window of collective consciousness

## Window of veracity

The large window of the Jewish people's spiritual legacy

### Background

Yad Vashem is a living memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, memories of the past are preserved here and their meaning is further conveyed to future generations. Yad Vashem was founded in 1953 as the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, its aims are education, research and documentation, as well as commemo-

ration. In view of the considerable increase in objects, Yad Vashem with its more than 65 years of experience, has launched a campaign to build a profound legacy campus, the heart of which will be the Shoah Heritage Collections Center. The new house is being built in a strategically prominent, highly visible location - directly opposite the Hall of Remembrance, one of the most frequently visited places - and will comprise a total of four subterranean levels.

### Artistic vision

Located in the central entrance hall of the Heritage Collections Center - consciously integrated into the widely visible supporting wall, which conceptually connects all floor levels of the new building - the elaborate „window of memories“ - a comprehensive and profoundly touching piece of glass art which represents the collective consciousness and veracity of the Jewish people. The entire artistic work connects the ground floor with the upper, and therefore has two very strong conceptually areas of content and statement, these merge softly into one another: the dark, invisible trauma in the sub-





## Foreground

consciousness and the brightly visible, clear consciousness. Below and above – concealed under the earth and, as it were, clearly recognizable – intimately interwoven and deep in their exchange - now exposed for all mankind: included in the darkness, the cruel past ... visible for all to see and up above the sky ... the vastness, the light ... and the wide open, transcendent wonderful future of the Jewish people. In between the two, the catharsis. And all of it now- today. At the bottom however: Absolute zero. The horror. The almost unspeakable crime of our German grandfathers. Today I stand here before all these experiences, images, places and actions, as part of the next German born generation, and it is completely incomprehensible. To visualize it we look through the glass into our souls. Flooded with light and shadow, may every twilight be allowed to glow for

My vision as an international artist - born in Mainz Germany in 1969 - is to work on a concept for a unique touching all embracing work of glass art - in cooperation with the whole team of Yad Vashem, the German circle of friends of Yad Vashem eV as well as with many of the surviving victims of the Holocaust. In the next 12 months, from late summer 2019 I would like to slowly and visually work with all these people in a most intense artistic process. A concept born out of all this horror and disturbed madness - and burnt into the „window of memories“. The collective consciousness. The veracity. Showing the founding of the State of Israel and moving up through Modern times and transcending into the future and the „heavenly Jerusalem“. The concept incorporates an incredible amount of comfort, hope, and confidence for all of us - a new



encounter at heart level. In order to keep the events clearly in mind, but at the same time to let us gaze away from all the horror and move our eyes to the very top – without ever losing the memory of it. I have already started to preform the basic structure, an artful matrix of surfaces and basic forms which can be newly enriched during the next 12 months. Hundreds of fragments and small pieces are already intensely woven into the existing artistic structure: My vision is to talk with many surviving victims of the Holocaust in both Israel and Germany. And after each conversation I wish to create small sketches and photographs of existing pictorial memories, and artfully weave them into the overall picture, a tapestry of the smallest facets, condensing the glass art as a window of memories. Symbolically transforming the narratives and traditions of these people - deeply felt in the window of memories.

#### T e c h n o l o g y

The world's leading glass workshops, Derix near Frankfurt will produce the elaborate glass art window under my

direction in 4-6 months. The German technique is unique to the world and can not be realized in Israel: the highest artistic fine etching on hand-blown antique glass from the very last German glass works Lamberts in combination with float-glass paintings, burnt in perfection during innumerable firing processes. The German circle of friends and the team around Yad Vashem will visit the intensive work of Derix in respective monthly cycles. The individual artful panes will then be further processed into multiple insulating glass and fused into one complete pane. Due to these special techniques this elaborate artisan glass art will stay color-fast and visually durable, for the next thousand years amid Israels powerful sun.

My artistic vision is to set up a kind of lift for a maximum of 3-5 people in front of the large, long glass window of memories, from which one can slowly and mindfully explore the work of art from bottom to top. The lift always stops at very crucial stories and visualizations. At the top one gets out and the lift slowly descends without the people. Then





once again one is able to experience all the tremendous power – from the deepest deepest darkness which slowly merges into light, opening up and expanding and becoming even more luminous, and finally reaching up into a more colorful present and future. A profound experience ultimately bringing out and anchoring us, and maybe at last letting us change in our own hearts, at least to tears of hope, perhaps more comforting in a more loving present and future. I know from my own experience over the last 7 years, in which I had the chance to talk to many survivors of the Holocaust and members of their families, that there is no forgiveness and reconciliation for these perpetrators. But as successive generations, we can at least join hands and make sure that nothing like this is ever allowed to happen again.

#### Metavision

The new “MiQua. LVR-Jewish Museum in the Archaeological Quarter Cologne” is currently under construction until 2021. As a city Cologne is also deeply connected with Jaffa and Israel, maintaining a unique and vi-

brant city exchange between the two countries. As a twin art object, the window of memories will also become a parallel and strong visualization in the new German MiQua this will conceptually combine BOTH sites, countries, cultures and peoples and profoundly merge them - from the suffering into a new, partnership-like connection at heart level.

What justifies, of all things me as an artist?

For the last 7 years I was able to work, as a German artist, on the entire glass art of the synagogue in the largest medical center in Israel, symbolically returning the thread to Chaim Sheba, as one of the next generation of artists, that Marc Chagall wove from 1962 in Hadassah until his death in 1984 in my birthplace Mainz in Germany. In my art, I consciously visualized the history and power of all the Jewish people’s previous paths. At Pentecost 2018, the German-Israeli all embracing work of art was solemnly inaugurated. It was reported about on the news in German television – and I was officially honored with a document for my intense work

as a German artist and my extraordinary artistic milestone in the name of the State of Israel. I am currently working on the ten huge spheres of light for the world's largest underground cemetery in Jerusalem, which will be installed and inaugurated this year in the Holy Land.

Now my third job in Israel – the „Window of memories“ – is probably the biggest challenge for me: Almost 9 years of travel and encounters between Israel and Germany have trained me as a builder of bridges between both countries and cultures, which inevitably melt together – in pure horror and suffering – and today in a whole new encounter: slowly there is a new growth of trust and friendship. As an artist of the next generation I would like to be able to continue working on a meta level – in the spirit and soul of Marc Chagall. Together we can view all the scars, and show them to the whole world. Woven like a tapestry for the next thousands of years in glass art.. For eternity. Never forgetting. But collectively looking at and recognizing everything – and working even more consciously together in the future.

From human to human. For a peaceful future together on this earth.

*„During the Shoah, an entire universe was shattered and dispersed in myriad directions. The remaining fragments vary infinitely in size, shape and texture. Each fragment tells its own story, which, when interwoven with others, helps to recreate the rich and extensive tapestry of Jewish life.. „Original text from the concept of the“ Shoah Heritage Collections Center. Yad Vashem 2019”*

*„As an artist, I would like to take all these true fragments and show them through photographs and drawings, melting them together into one completely new all embracing work of art: profound, powerful and simultaneously shocking and touching. In the process, all the seemingly unspeakable atrocities of the past can be visually brought into here and now - and, above all, further on into the future were it will hopefully bring forth transformation. All of this directly through the symbolically eternal medium of glass art for all succeeding generations to directly experience in their souls“*





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