

Awards Evening: "Resisting Injustice"

THE WHITE ROSE ART AND WRITING PROJECT

In the context of the "White Rose Art Project," the Cape Town Holocaust Centre in partnership with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) invited high school learners, parents, and teachers on 18 August to take part in the opening of the exhibition that showcased the students' artworks. Through exposure to the history of the Holocaust and Nazi Germany, the project encouraged students from grade nine to twelve from schools all over the Western Cape to share their thoughts in form of poems or paintings regarding injustice in society. This awards evening not only created awareness of the importance of art in fighting exclusion, but also showed the extraordinary talent of the participants, who despite their young age understood that every discriminatory action stems from an irrational creation of a category of "the other."

KAS as a foundation has always been determined to promote democratic values and to strongly condemn racism, xenophobia, and discrimination. Therefore, it goes without saying that KAS was delighted to support a project highlighting the power of imagination in tackling inequity. Host Richard Freedman maintained that creativity, indeed, unlocks something "that cannot be expressed by words." He further argued that the jury received excellent submissions and struggled to announce winners, because every entry was of high quality. Moreover, Freedman claimed that art will never be liked by everyone; it does, however, always provoke a response. He praised the participating teachers, the "unsung heroes," who motivated their students to engage in an important topic that is still highly relevant today. Given that creativity can

take many forms, he introduced a high school choir showing that the power of music is one that touches us all. Afterwards, the announcement of the winners filled the room with happiness and made for many proud students, parents, and teachers.

"I'm here and I'm going to survive"

At the end of the ceremony, the Holocaust Centre showed an intense short film about Petr Ginz, a young Jewish teenager who was deported to the Terezín concentration camp in 1942, but still, against all odds, published the magazine "Vedem" in the camp, which was full of poems, paintings, and other original work. The movie revealed how people in chains still manage to use art as a form of resistance. Petr died at the age of 16 on 28 September 1944 when he was transferred to Auschwitz. The Holocaust Centre was eager to emphasise that his legacy will live throughout centuries. After all, his story should be a reminder of how great challenges can produce remarkable responses, which often are best expressed through art.

Relevance of the Holocaust

It was striking to see how the theme of the exhibition is still of major significance in today's society. The students called attention to other examples of injustice such as homelessness, rape culture, racism, xenophobia, and misogyny. Projects like the "White Rose Art Project" crucially contribute toward making the youth aware of social ills and their implications. The horrific events of the Holocaust reminded the learners that exclusion has no place in our society and must by all means be prevented.

Injustice in Society – Rape, Prejudice, Homelessness

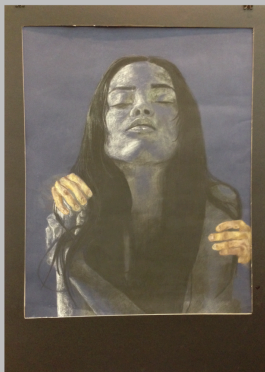
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

SOUTH AFRICA

LOE GUTHMANN

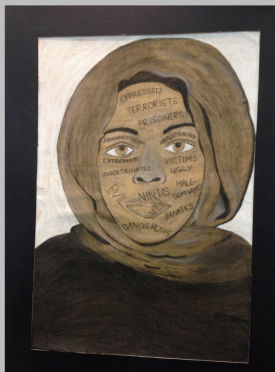
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By Chloe Louw

The young girl is transparent, because she has lost touch with reality, sick of being objectified. The hands grabbing her represent the rapist, the oppressor, who makes his victims feel worthless. The picture criticises that women are still perceived as sex objects.



By Zaakirah Jattiem

This picture displays the stereotypes Muslim women have to face every day. The eyes of the woman show how tiring it is to be allegorised as "dangerous, unflattering, or male-dominated" on a daily basis.



By Kayla Bagg

Homeless people are judged every day, although their story is unknown. While some end up on the streets due to a chain of unlucky, unjust events, few people in today's society seem to care.

3D Art – Parenting, Dehumanising, Future of Mankind



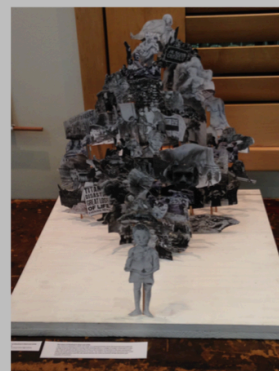
By Kaylee Firstbrook

Parents influence the way children are brought up. This artwork criticises parents, who are unaware of how much their actions affect brain, the ability to deal with pain, and heart, the ability to love. Thus, bad parenting is the reason why atrocities continue to exist.



By Zence van der Merwe

In Nazi Germany, Jews were dehumanised to an extent that they were not perceived as proper human beings anymore. They were degraded to faceless, anonymous "animals" in order for the regime to justify its terrible barbarity.



By Imaan Samie

This 3D artwork shows that the future of mankind is in our hands. The pile in the background represents the mistakes of previous generations, and how they have to live with the scars in society.

Nazi Germany – Realities in Black & White



By Chloe Boetcher

Adolf Hitler is displayed as a manipulative demagogue, who "serves" the people injustice in response to their everyday problems. The artwork criticises political leaders who exploit social tensions for personal gains by creating a scapegoat.



By Carissa Peach

The mourning siblings symbolise all the families that were torn apart in World War II. While sorrow and pain dominate the atmosphere in the foreground, allied planes create hope by dropping White Rose pamphlets in the background.



By Nicole Henn

This artwork shows the sad reality of concentration camps. The young boy illustrates the lack of compassion of Nazis; their hate stopped at nothing. Disillusioned by the bloody horrors the boy has seen, he is weary of life.

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The Awards Evening in Pictures

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**Konrad
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Impressum

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Richard Freedman, director of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, inaugurated the awards evening and thanked the high school students for submitting numerous excellent artworks.



The parents were proud of their children's achievements, and the organisers were pleased that the artworks received such positive feedback.



There was a heavy rush at the opening of the exhibition. The audience engaged with the students' pieces of art and was impressed with the analytical depth of the pictures.



The Konrad Adenauer Foundation is happy to have supported the exhibition and hopes to take part in further projects in partnership with the Cape Town Holocaust Centre.