

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

| PROJECT | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Project name and acronym: | [Negotiating Difficult Pasts] — [NeDiPa] |
| Participant: | [Stowarzyszenie FestivALT] (FestivALT) |
| PIC number: | 895375767 |

| EVENT DESCRIPTION | |
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| Event number: | [WP15] |
| Event name: | MEMORY PATTERNS. AROUND THE LABOR CAMP IN MOGILA AND THE HISTORY OF THE MEISELS SISTERS |
| Type: | community building |
| In situ/online: | in situ |
| Location: | Krakow, Poland |
| Date(s): | 3.03.2024, 28.03.2024 |
| Website(s) (if any): | https://nedipa.eu/en/blog/event/memory-patterns/ |
| Participants | |
| Female: | 27 |
| Male: | 6 |
| Non-binary: | 0 |
| From country 1 [Poland]: | 33 |
| Total number of participants: | 33 |
| From total number of countries: | 1 |
| Description | |
| <i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i> | |
| <p>In partnership with local residents and organizations (the House of Utopia - International Center of Empathy, and the Norwid Cultural Center), FestivALT facilitated a meeting on March 3rd dedicated to the history of the Nazi labor camp Baulager 15/XIV in Mogila and the actions that the community of Nowa Huta and local institutions can take to commemorate its victims. Following the successful and moving event the residents of Nowa Huta proposed organizing an exhibition of works produced during the workshop, which was available for display from March 17-March 29, 2029.</p> <p>March 3rd, 2024</p> <p>The event started at 11:00 a.m. We aimed to share the knowledge gained so far and acquired archival materials, as well as collectively discuss ideas for further initiatives.</p> <p>In addition to the historical-archival and discussion part led by historian Tomasz Owoc, there was also an artistic</p> | |

component, namely embroidery workshops led by Ewa Cieniak - an interdisciplinary artist working in the technique of embroidery, using fabrics and recycled objects in her works.

In the workshops, as well as in the name of the event, we tried to evoke the history of the Meisels sisters: Ernestyna, Paulina, Rena, Gizela, and Maryla - a history full of gaps and inaccuracies, hiding many unknowns, originating from a Krakowian, tailoring family. Ernestyna and Rena were prisoners of Baulager 15/XIV in Mogila. Most likely, only Gizela managed to survive the war. Under the sensitive guidance of Ewa Cieniak, the participants attempted to retrieve them from oblivion and immortalize them in a unique way: through sewing patterns and the art of embroidery.

We hoped that this meeting would not only be the beginning of deepening knowledge about the Baulager 15/XIV camp in Mogila but also - the recovery of the history of its victims. The event (which lasted 6 hours) was indeed a very moving experience for all participants and resulted in a number of ideas for future common activity to be organized together.

The presenters of the event included:

- Tomasz Owoc - Curator of the Metallurgy Museum in Chorzów
- Dariusz Grochal - Nowa Huta resident, creator of the "Before Nowa Huta Was Built" portal, researcher of the history of the Nowa Huta lands, author of two thriller novels.
- Małgorzata Szymczyk-Karnasiewicz - a nowa Huta activist and hopefully the next city councillor
- Ewa Cieniak - a graduate of the European Academy of Art in Warsaw, specializing in the graphics department. With a background as an art director and creative director in esteemed advertising agencies like Saatchi & Saatchi, she has garnered significant experience in the industry. In 2019, she experienced an epiphany, prompting a return to their artistic roots. Surprisingly, embroidery emerged as her preferred medium, with fabrics serving as a flexible and inspiring canvas for their experimentation. Since then, she has been dedicated to honing their craft, continually refining their style and approach to creation. ewacieniak.com

March 29th, 2024

On March 29th, we hosted a closing event for the exhibition featuring works created by participants of our workshops. The exhibition was visually stunning, and we aspire to continue showcasing it at other venues. Although not officially part of Krakow Women's Month (March), the exhibition strongly echoed its themes, aiming to shed light on the often overlooked victims of World War II and promote a deeper understanding of microhistory and craftivism as potent tools for remembrance and commemoration. Throughout the exhibition's duration, the venue hosted numerous activities, many of which centered around women in recognition of the month of March, making the exhibition particularly fitting. According to the venue host, several hundred visitors had the opportunity to experience the exhibition, and did so with great interest, during its brief presentation period.

The "Patterns of Memory" project emerged from the longstanding commitment of the residents of Nowa Huta to reclaim the history of the German Nazi forced labor camp, Baulager 15/XIV in Mogila, and commemorate its victims. Previous initiatives, including an unrealized project to install a commemorative plaque on the building of the Nowa Huta Museum (located in the center of the former camp) and a temporary exhibition organized by the institution in 2022, have not yielded the desired results. This chapter of Krakow's history remains obscure and calls for closer examination.

The event was also covered in an hour-long radio conversation in Polish mainstream media:

https://radiokrakowkultura.pl/podcasty/o-zagladzie-z-perspektywy-nowej-huty?fbclid=IwAR2nEdrb1hLUYShA_hjVSgaushxs2-e1XPAgDTPOmIWTeVgru8pDB0rF_Qc_aem_AU8gM-ldf-L_JNcl6HxM_tikKI6yZbOvKBQCG4Q9Eq_Y8lnQklpXmrFWj8Pp432J9ZlnaNNbGxCOZkb5b5gBCeiM

The deliverable was achieved as planned.

| HISTORY OF CHANGES | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| VERSION | PUBLICATION DATE | CHANGE |
| 1.0 | 01.04.2022 | Initial version (new MFF). |
| 2.0 | 16.03.2024 | The change the date of the event WP 17, D 17. 1 Raising awareness through art (Kraków) until the end of March 2024 and to change the event from one to two days. |