

Explanatory text for the video

GERTRUD MOSBERG – an approach

Why Gertrud Mosberg? Why concentrate on someone of whom there is only a single blurred image, taken when she was a child? A woman whose dreams, sorrows and pleasures we can never experience. She is like a blank canvas. All that remains is a chain of evidence, carefully written by Nazi bureaucrats. Her life extinguished, Gertrud Mosberg represents millions of people who were persecuted, tortured and murdered.

I have tried to examine the fragments of her life, to give them form, feeling -a story.

The pictures are in random order, just like Gertrud Mosberg's life. Fragments. Interspersed with menacing music are repeating images of a little girl on a swing - she is about the same age as Gertrud Mosberg in the photo. The swing: a symbol of light-heartedness and joie de vivre. A type of life that Gertrud Mosberg and many others might have known.

Some images appear repeatedly - railway lines represent different periods of Gertrud Mosberg's life and studies - the need to try things out, but also the possibility of fleeing from deportation.

The monochrome images symbolise emptiness, disappearance, ignorance and silence. X-ray photographs and consulting rooms suggest Gertrud Mosberg's profession as a doctor - help and healing. Or, perhaps, the rooms where Nazi doctors carried out their cruel experiments?

The concentration camp lamp behind the barbed wire looks like the office lamp in the consultation room. A comfortable armchair facing a chair whose legs disappear in the depths. Behind a shot of x-rays, a mother's gloomy face - she has lost her mind from all the suffering.

Barbed wire, Ravensbrück concentration camp, a prisoner's uniform, a child's skeletal cot, offering no protection - all images with no comment. The inside of a deportation train, with small air holes drilled into the wood. One cannot imagine the level of distress!

At the end: a silent scream in a grey vacuum.

DORO KÖSTER, July 2017