



FINAL FRAME PRESENTS

DRAWING AGAINST OBLIVION

A FILM BY BÄRBEL JACKS



» Nobody cried for these children «

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The series of works DRAWING AGAINST OBLIVION moves you with its intensity and humanity. The artist Manfred Bockelmann manages to uniquely get the youngest victims of the Nazi regime out of the darkness of being forgotten into the light of being recognised and remembered.

“I want to get these children back out of the darkness,
and I will continue to draw my portraits as long as I can.”



Film data

Country of Production	Germany
Year of Production	2015
Format	DCP
Length	67 / 52 min.

Crew

Director	Bärbel Jacks
DOP	Tobias Corts
Editing	George Michael Fischer
Sound	Andreas Kickel Christoph Käsbauer Sean O'Neil
Music	Edgar Unterkirchner
Production	David Kunac / Final Frame Klaus Brecht
Executive Producer	David Kunac
Co-production	Graf Filmproduktion

Synopsis (short)

"What happened to the children who lay in the wrong crib?" asks Austrian artist Manfred Bockelmann. Born in 1943, he embarks on a mission: by drawing their faces he wants to retrieve from oblivion the innumerable children who were murdered in the name of racist mania and disappeared in the archives as mere statistical numbers. Remembering the Nazi terror through the eyes of the artist who travels to Auschwitz concentration camp and to the US to encounter those children who escaped from the death camps. This film visualizes the horrors of the holocaust without using archival footage and is a strong plea for vigilance against racism right here, right now.

Synopsis (long)

"DRAWING AGAINST OBLIVION" is a film that doesn't follow any commercial objective and cannot be pigeonholed as belonging to any specific genre: Is it a portrait, is it an art film, is it a period drama? Does it deal with social, socially critical questions? It's a mixture of all that. Without the typical archive pictures often used in most documentaries, it elucidates the atrocities committed in the name of racist fanaticism. It's about children, the most innocent of the innocent in a society and in a war.

"What happened to the children who lay in the wrong cradle? What happened there?" is the question the Austrian artist Manfred Bockelmann asks himself. He was born in 1943 and has now embarked on a mission: He wants to shed light on the countless children and teenagers who were murdered by the Nazis and disappeared in the archives as a statistical number. He wants to give back a face, a personality, to the numbers – that is his aim. Drawn in charcoal using horizontal lines on coarse jute canvas, he draws one portrait after the other. These children look at us questioningly, filled with fear: "Why me? What did I do wrong?"

The moment of deracination and total loss of orientation is captured on the photographs the SS took of their victims for the official records. Manfred Bockelmann uses these photos as a template for his drawings. Seen with the eyes of the artist, the film embarks on a journey to archives in the USA and Auschwitz concentration camp and meets children from those times, Holocaust survivors. The result was an emotional enmeshment that strikes the audience with its pithy associational language and imagery.

The film is a call for more tolerance and humanity. The film doesn't search for culprits but uses positive energy to show that it's important to take a look, to not be in denial, in order to prevent something like ever happening again.

It reminds us of the value of empathetic humanity – not only with a view to the past but also to now and here, in our present-day lives.



"To me, it makes no difference what nationality someone is. German, Polish, British, Russian... What is he or she like as a person? That's what matters."

Tadeusz Smreczynski (Holocaust survivor)



The Director

Bärbel Jacks started her career 1991 in Munich, at the commercial TV channel Tele 5, as TV journalist and producer. In 1997 her film "Living in the Ghetto. Jews in Hebron and New York" earned the TV-Award "Bayerischer Fernsehpreis".

After working as a worldwide Chief Reporter on Air (ProSieben), she was hired as director for the international documentary series "Secrets of Power". Her responsibility as author and director for the films about and with Mikhail Gorbachev, George H.W. Bush and Hans-Dietrich Genscher gave her the opportunity to spend weeks and months close to top-ranking decision makers and to look behind the scenes of international power.

In 2007 Bärbel completed her first docufiction drama "Killerflu 2008" as Executive Producer and Co-Director. In autumn 2009 her first two documentaries of an international series about a mega construction project in Abu Dhabi were shown on TV with best ratings of the program. The documentaries include the construction of the Formula One Racetrack in Abu Dhabi (Yas Island) and the development of the signature 5-Star Yas Hotel.

Her most recent productions as director are Bayern!, a documentary TV-Series and the Gold Medal awarded documentary "Drawing Against Oblivion", (2015). Bärbel enjoys working as both, director and producer. She is dedicated to keep telling stories that matter, that unveil personal characters and give a surprising look behind the scenes.

Filmography B. Jacks

1997 Director „Living In A Ghetto. Jews In Hebron and New York“

2001-2002 Director Doc series „Secrets of Power“

2003-2009 Creative Producer, Showproducer, Executive Producer

2005-2007 Executive Producer and Co-director „Killerflu 2008“, 94min. Docufiction

2009 Director „Building the Impossible“ and „The F1 Launch Coaster“

2010 Skyscraper Burj Khalifa - Living in the world's tallest building

2013-2014 Director „Drawing Against Oblivion“, Documentary



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