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A Day in My Shoes



We decided to replicate items in which victims believed their worth to be found in. We chose **identity** for the reason that it can no longer be represented for the reason that it was lost long before the ending of Concentration Camps. It is relevant today for the reason that we often lose sight of the idea that these individuals were more than just victims of the Holocaust, and their life is worth being remembered as more than just a victim.

We used wood, a shoe, paper, ashes, and a variety of paint to help sculpt a box where we could make the focal point of the project the lost identities and what survivors claimed their identity to be found in which were shoes.

Each element used in our display, is a form of identity.

- Shoe- Prisoners claimed their shoes were what their identity was found in. We found this to be true when we attempted to burn the shoe and had no luck in destroying it. By doing this we realized that the shoes are left as a reminder of those whose lives were lost. The worn shoe is meant to show how hard and how long that prisoner has worked therefore claiming that since they are in the shoes, that is where their character is found.
- Prison numbers- The numbers on the shoe show what the prisoners were identified by in the camps. This number stripped whatever sense of individuality the individual had left, they were no longer referred to by name but by identified by a 5-digit number
- Ashes- The ashes represent the thousands of victims whose bodies were burned
- The Star of David- This iconic symbol represents the whole purpose behind why they were sent to the camps. While being a Jew was a part of them, it also became all they were known for.
- Shadow pictures- This represents the loss of identity. They are no longer viewed as mothers, daughters, sons, fathers, or grandparents, they are only seen as victims of the Holocaust.

The angle you look at the box depicts the way you see the Holocaust. If you look at it from the back you see nothing but the closed off, black box that describes the hidden description of what the Holocaust actually was. If you look at it from the front it shows the prisoners being trapped behind a wall that was the Holocaust itself. The outside painting of the box represents the chimney where so many lives were taken. The inside painting of the box represents the reoccurring feeling of being in prison and trapped. These individuals were stripped of any identity they had left and were constantly reminded that they are nothing more than a prisoner.

The strength of our representation lies in the ability for this box to speak without any words.

Each element in our presentation ties into how we today identify prisoners of the Holocaust.

What we are not able to represent in this project are the lost identities. Each prisoner lost who they were and will never be able to retrieve it. The Holocaust is now their new identity.

Although each survivor desperately tries, they will continue to struggle with finding out their purpose and who they are due to the fact that they were constantly labeled and categorized for the majority of their lives.