

SELECTED ANECDOTES

which illustrate that Susan May Tell's exhibition
A Requiem: Tribute to the Spiritual Space at Auschwitz
touches a resonant chord in a diverse and wide range of
nationalities, religions, cultures, and ages

- A middle-aged Japanese-American woman was viewing the photographs inside the gallery while I was talking to the Director of the Griffin Museum of Photography, near the entranceway. When the woman left the gallery, the Director said "Here's the artist" and the woman burst into tears. All I could do was hug her. Later she approached me and in broken, accented, English, said "very beautiful."

- A woman, a Muslim born in Iran, emailed: "I simply wanted to let you know how I felt about your very poignant exhibition ... As I stood in the middle of it...the images took me there and I could hear the yelling, the screaming, the feeling of hopelessness of the victims ... and I could not stop the tears ... For this very reason your exhibit reminds the viewer of the prejudice, injustice and the fact that it is still happening to many all over this world."

- A Latina high school student pointed to what looks like smudged eyes in one of the photographs and said that in her Puerto Rican culture, the smudges symbolize "ghost."

- An architect attended a gallery talk where the discussion included what should be done with places of this kind and later emailed: "I will continue to puzzle over the issues related to preservation of tragic sites and how to ensure that we do not forget for sometime to come."

- A 14-year old pointed to the photograph with the valises and noted the date of birth, 1935, written on the one belonging to Gertrude Neubauer. "She must have been just a child."

- A Scottish woman emailed: "The images are overwhelming & so sad, so strong, so important. I had a strong physical reaction, feeling weak and stomach turning. I found the cutlery shot so moving having read Primo Levi recently, and so knowing how important these mundane items became to the prisoners. I'm in awe of your ability to convey the horror so brilliantly, and the world of course needs to have all this kept in consciousness."

- An administrator at a Holocaust museum emailed "Susan, your creativity and sensitivity make the photographs unique among holocaust-related artwork, as the images are sparse, stark, and intricate. The exhibit has the potential to greatly contribute to dialogue about genocide, while thoughtfully and powerfully commemorating the memory of all those who died in Auschwitz."

- A seven-year-old, looking at the photographs in the catalog said to her mom, a poet whose grandfather came from Armenia: "these are sad."