

FORWARD

CALENDAR

FORWARD, OCTOBER 7, 2005



SUSAN MAY TELL

STARK SHOT: Susan May Tell's large-scale photographs of Auschwitz are featured in the exhibition.

IMAGES IN REMEMBRANCE

The images are without words, titles or frames — they stand alone as silent witnesses to the events in Auschwitz. "Requiem," an exhibition of 11 haunting photographs by Susan May Tell, is currently on display at the Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale.

FLORIDA Tell had not planned on going to Auschwitz. But in 1998, while traveling from Prague to Budapest, Tell learned that she could take an overnight train to Krakow, Poland, just a short train ride from Auschwitz.

"I didn't go [to Auschwitz] to prove a point; I went there just to see," Tell said. "When I got there, it felt very spiritual, as if the spirits were there, guiding me."

Tell tried to capture the spiritual aspect of the camps with her camera. "Visually, the photographs are interesting to look at. They contain a lot of elements, [but] at the same time, you don't notice the elements," she explained. "I photographed the aesthetics, the mood, the sense of foreboding."

Tell hopes that viewers will feel what she experienced while silently walking the grounds of Auschwitz. That is, "for visitors to

feel the presence of unspeakable horror, the ever-present pathos of desolation, and [to get] a real sense of the large scale of this death camp."

In describing her work, Tell says she photographs poems: "In a poem, each word is essential and interdependent on every other word. So it is with 'Requiem,' in which photograph is essential and interdependent on every other photograph."

An award-winning staff photographer for the New York Post, Tell began her career in 1983 as a freelance photographer for the New York Times. She has received awards from the New York Press Photographers and the World Press Photo. Her work has appeared in a number of publications including Time, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report, the New York Times magazine, New York magazine and Interview. The exhibit is curated by Annegreth Nill.

— REGINA AVSHALUMOVA

Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale, 1 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale; through Oct. 16, Mon., Wed., Fri.-Sun. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Thu. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; free. (954-525-5500 or www.moaf.org)