

ON DISPLAY

A Requiem: Tribute To The Spiritual Space At Auschwitz

While traveling to Prague and Budapest in Eastern Europe, photographer Susan May Tell learned of an overnight train to Krakow, Poland, and from there, a short local train ride to Auschwitz.

She took the opportunity to visit the concentration camp where, she says, "I walked the grounds in silence, in meditation, photographing the aesthetics, the mood, the sense of foreboding—and tried to capture the energy that lives in that space."

"A Requiem: Tribute to the Spiritual Space at Auschwitz," a series of her photographs, is featured in the Main Gallery at the Griffin Museum of Photography Sept. 10 through Nov. 1. A reception will be held Sept. 16, from 7-8:30 p.m.

"In Auschwitz, I felt the presence of its ghosts guiding me, guiding my camera, and was then, and continue to be now, moved to share the tragedy of this place through the images I saw through my lens," said Tell.

Auschwitz was the largest of Nazi Germany's concentration camps and where be-

tween 1.3 million and 1.5 million people—90 percent of whom were Jewish—were murdered in gas chambers.

Tell's photographs are printed 6-by-4 feet on gelatin silver paper, full frame, and purposefully left unframed.

"Hopefully, visitors will find these images reveal the presence of unspeakable horror, convey the ever present pathos of desolation, and give a real sense of the large scale of this death camp," Tell said.

She added, "Equally important to my artistic vision is my commitment to Auschwitz as a meditation on decay and memory. Like other sacred grounds that are decaying, Auschwitz today is disappearing and raises questions about whether places of this kind should be restored, and the importance of memory and commemoration."

Tell worked as a freelance and staff photojournalist for many years.

Based in Cairo for four years, she covered the Middle East photographing inside Iran, Iraq, Syria, Eritrea, Libya, Israel and the Sudan. Later, based in Paris, she photographed the 50th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy,



Photographs by Susan May Tell

and personalities including Jeanne Moreau, Roman Polanski, Youssou N'Dour and Marcello Mastroianni.

The first solo exhibition of her fine art photography was in 1982. "A Requiem" was shown at the Museum of Art/Fort Lauderdale in 2005. Tell was awarded first place in Photowork 09 by Malcolm Daniel, curator of photographs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The work of photographer Susan May Tell is on display at the Main Gallery at the Griffin Museum of Photography. All of her works featured here, are untitled.



ON THE WEB

For more, visit www.susanmaytell.com

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