



New portraits of Holocaust survivors by leading contemporary photographers displayed at IWM London



Images from left to right: Freddie Knoller BEM © Frederic Aranda; Rosl Schatzberger © Carolyn Mendelsohn; Steven Frank BEM © The Duchess of Cambridge; Uri Winterstein BEM © Jillian Edelstein.

A new photography exhibition at IWM London brings together over 50 contemporary portraits of Holocaust survivors and their families, shining a light on the full lives they have lived and our collective responsibility to ensure their stories live on.

In partnership with the Royal Photographic Society (RPS), Jewish News, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and Dangoor Education, *Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors* (6 August 2021 – 9 January 2022) showcases new works from 13 contemporary photographers, all members and Fellows of RPS, alongside photography by RPS Patron, **Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge**. Displayed for the very first time, these powerful photographs capture the special connections between Holocaust survivors and the younger generations of their families.

The systematic persecution of Europe's Jews by the Nazis between 1933 and 1945 led to the mass extermination of 6 million lives. For those who survived, its memory and impact were life changing. Through a series of individual and family portraits, the moving photographs in this exhibition present a group of survivors who made the UK their home after beginnings marked by unimaginable loss and trauma. While offering a space to remember and share their stories, these portraits are a celebration of the rich lives they have lived and the special legacy which their children and grandchildren will carry into the future.

The majority of the photographs in *Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors* were captured in Spring 2021, presenting a brand-new body of work from contemporary photographers including **Frederic Aranda, Sian Bonnell, Jillian Edelstein, Arthur Edwards, Anna Fox, Joy Gregory, Jane Hilton, Tom Hunter, Karen Knorr, Carolyn Mendelsohn, Simon Roberts, Michelle Sank** and **Hannah Starkey**.

Works on display include Frederic Aranda's portrait of Freddie Knoller BEM, photographed on his 100th birthday with his wife Freida, daughters Susie and Marcia and grandson Nadav. Born on 17 April 1921, Freddie was forced to leave his home in Vienna, Austria, and lived as a Jewish refugee in Belgium and France. In 1943, he joined the French Resistance and following his arrest, survived imprisonment in camps at Auschwitz, Dora-Nordhausen and Bergen-Belsen. During a death march from Auschwitz, Freddie took the uniform badge of a dead French political prisoner to conceal his Jewish identity, replacing his own 'yellow star' badge with that of a 'red triangle' badge. Identifying as a political – rather than Jewish – prisoner helped him survive at Dora-Nordhausen. He moved to London in the 1950s and started a family, through whom his important story will live on. Exhibition

visitors will be able to see Freddie's patch of concentration camp uniform with its red triangle badge on display as part of IWM's ground-breaking new Second World War and The Holocaust Galleries, which open to the public on 20 October 2021.

Other portraits, taken by Jillian Edelstein, capture survivors alongside childhood mementoes – passports and teddy bears – or sat in the homes where they have created new lives and memories. Joining these are The Duchess of Cambridge's intimate portraits of survivors Steven Frank BEM and Yvonne Bernstein, commissioned specially for the exhibition.

Tracy Marshall-Grant, the Royal Photographic Society's Project Curator of *Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors*, says: "This exhibition honours those who escaped the Holocaust and celebrates the full lives that they have led in the UK since their arrival. Each portrait shows the special connection between the survivor and subsequent generations of their family and it emphasises their important legacy. The portraits, by leading contemporary British photographers, seek to simultaneously inspire audiences to consider their own responsibility to remember and to share the stories of those who endured persecution. It creates a legacy that will allow those descendants to connect directly back and inspire future generations."

Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors at IWM London forms part of a rich and varied series of exhibitions, events and landmark new openings in 2021. Alongside the opening of IWM's new Second World War and The Holocaust Galleries on 20 October 2021, this exhibition aims to remind visitors of our collective responsibility to remember and share stories about those who endured conflict and persecution.

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Notes to editors

[Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors](#)

6 August 2021 – 9 January 2022

Photographers contributing to *Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors* at IWM London include: Frederic Aranda; Sian Bonnell; Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge; Jillian Edelstein; Arthur Edwards; Anna Fox; Joy Gregory; Jane Hilton; Tom Hunter; Karen Knorr; Carolyn Mendelsohn; Simon Roberts; Michelle Sank; and Hannah Starkey

IWM London

IWM London tells the stories of those whose lives have been shaped by war through the depth, breadth and impact of our Galleries, displays and events. Explore the [First World War Galleries](#) and iconic Atrium; visit our [Holocaust Exhibition](#); discover stories of bravery in [The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes](#) or take in our latest major temporary exhibitions.

Open Daily: 10am – 6pm. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. (Closed 24 - 26 December). Free Admission

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IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) **tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.**

Our unique collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches which attract over 2.5 million visitors each year are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch that recently transformed with new, permanent and free First World War Galleries alongside new displays across the iconic Atrium to mark the Centenary of the First World War; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

Royal Photographic Society

The Royal Photographic Society works to make photography for everyone. It was founded in 1853 to promote photography and support photographers and now has some 11,000 members around the world. Today, the RPS aims to inspire people through its exhibitions, Journal, awards and events; to help photographers create images through its educational programmes, and public initiatives, and to recognise individuals' skills and creativity through its Distinctions and qualification programmes; and it seeks to connect photographers through membership, and the activities of its UK and international hubs and specialist groups. RPS membership is open to everyone with an interest in photography whether you are just starting out on your photography journey or are an experienced photographer looking to put something back and support others.

www.rps.org

Jewish News

Jewish News is the UK's biggest distribution Jewish newspaper and is the exclusive UK digital partner of Times of Israel, the world's most-read Jewish news site. Twice short-listed by the Society of Editors in the Free Newspaper of the Year category, Jewish News' influence in the corridors of power have grown over recent years and it secured the only Jewish media interview with Jeremy Corbyn as Labour leader and the only one so far with the Archbishop of Canterbury. But it remains at its heart a community newspaper and that means more than just reporting the news: it organises events to unite the community and initiatives to celebrate its achievements, has pioneered a world first media collaboration with the Church Times and British Muslim TV and initiated various projects to promote national awareness and remembrance of the Holocaust, including the exhibition *Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors*. The exhibition was conceived by Jewish News as part of a special issue of the newspaper, edited by the children and grandchildren of survivors, to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is a charity that encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. HMDT promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day – the international day on 27 January to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution and in genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Dangoor Education

Dangoor Education works to support medical and scientific research through leading institutions like the Francis Crick Institute and the UK-Israel Tech hub as well as Cancer Research UK. Part of the philanthropy of The Exilarch's Foundation, it also promotes collaboration between people of different faiths and has been a sponsor of the outstanding-rated Westminster Academy since its foundation 15 years ago.