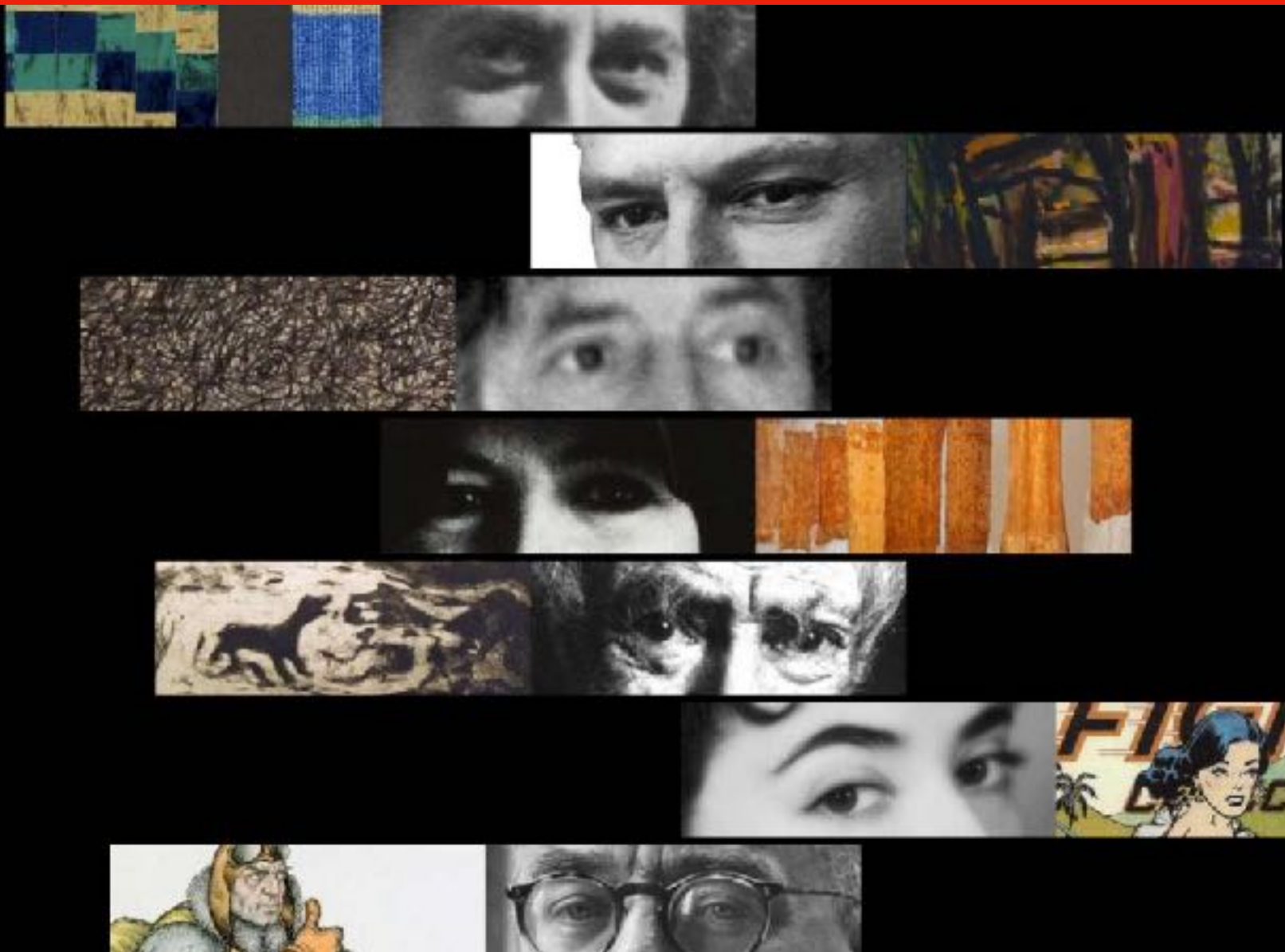


**THE FRITZ ASCHER SOCIETY
FOR PERSECUTED, OSTRACIZED AND BANNED ART**



**Identity • Art
and Migration •**

**PROGRAM
REPORT 2022**

MISSION

The Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art (FAS) discusses, publishes and exhibits artists whose life and work were affected by the German Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945. With our work we commemorate their artistic achievements, introduce work that may have been forgotten to a broad audience, and initiate an active dialogue about individuality and integrity in response to conditions of extreme duress and to political tyranny.

VISION

The Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art (FAS) enriches the understanding of the history of the 20th century by introducing untold stories of artists persecuted for their personal or communal identity by the German Nazi regime. Our projects create a safe space that allows diverse audiences to discuss highly relevant topics in an environment that surpasses ethnic, cultural and religious differences. We encourage the embrace of otherness and openness towards the stranger, and ultimately help create a more empathic society.



For the Fritz Ascher Society, 2022 started and ended with a bang: In January, we celebrated the launch of our online exhibition “Identity, Art and Migration” with one of the first post-pandemic live events in New York. We were so very glad to come together in person!

The year ended with our conference “Welcoming the Stranger. Abrahamic Hospitality and its Contemporary Implications” at Fordham University. Together with our co-organizer, Fordham University’s Institute on Religion, Law & Lawyer’s Work, we had put it off again and again for two years, waiting to organize the conference as a live event, with the direct exchange of ideas and expertise and the networking that make conferences so very important.

Beyond Fordham University - with its main campus located in close proximity to our offices - we had successful new collaborations with the School of Visual Arts and the Sheen Center for Thought & Culture, and continued our collaboration with 1014. space for ideas, all in New York.

And we did something new: a sneak preview for the theatrical release of “3 Minutes - A Lengthening.” The preview of this important film was sold out, the panel discussion with director Bianca Stigter and author Glenn Kurtz was followed by many questions, and the reception was at capacity.

Of course, there is always Berlin. In collaboration with the Fritz Ascher Foundation at the Museum of the City of Berlin (Stadtmuseum Berlin) we discussed four Berlin biographies of people whose lives were affected by Nazism. Exciting was the reading of Fritz Ascher's poems by actor, writer, stage director and moderator Ilja Richter. The unforgettable performance evoked a rollercoaster of emotions, which has forever altered my understanding of Ascher's poetic voice.

In addition to these eight live events, we organized eighteen events in our virtual lecture series "Flight or Fight. stories of artists under repression." Our community is growing globally, and our event recordings on the YouTube channel @fritzaschersociety.1130 have now reached 45,000 views (June 2023) - a milestone worth celebrating!

And we receive much positive feedback, like the following:

"Thank you so very much for all that you do. I thoroughly enjoy every single one of the presentations you have sponsored and offered. My parents survived the Holocaust and I have a deep love and appreciation of art and art history and the FAS has a special meaning to me." (Nina Gurman, USA)

"I would like to take a few minutes out to express my awe at the sheer pace of high-level content you have been publishing" (Gregory Hahn, Germany)

Thanks to collaborations with our international network of scholars, institutions and organizations we were able to bring brand new research and a wide range of virtual programs to our audience to discover, learn and discuss. Questions, thoughts and comments were also shared on our social media platforms, including facebook, instagram, and twitter. This year, we introduced book talks during the summer, about Hans Trotha's "Pollak's Arm" and David de Jong's book about "Nazi Billionaires. The dark history of Germany's Wealthiest Dynasties."

Our community's contribution to the Largest Digital Memorial to the Victims of Nazism has become a meaningful annual commemoration. As the first US partners of the Arolsen Archives (Germany), we continue to actively contribute to the Archive's digitalization efforts, showing that #EVERYNAMECOUNTS.

We thank our institutional and organizational partners, and 2022's main sponsors, the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York, Reinwald GmbH, Allianz Partners, the World Jewish Congress North America and the Abraham & Gizella Berger Foundation for their support. And we very much thank the growing number of individuals who generously support us.

Our work was featured in two podcasts and a Forward article by Barbara Finkelstein.

In 2024, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Fritz Ascher Society. Let us surprise you with exciting projects throughout the year, continuing our thought-provoking in-person and virtual events.

Thank you for being part of our community.

With gratitude and well wishes,

Rachel Stern

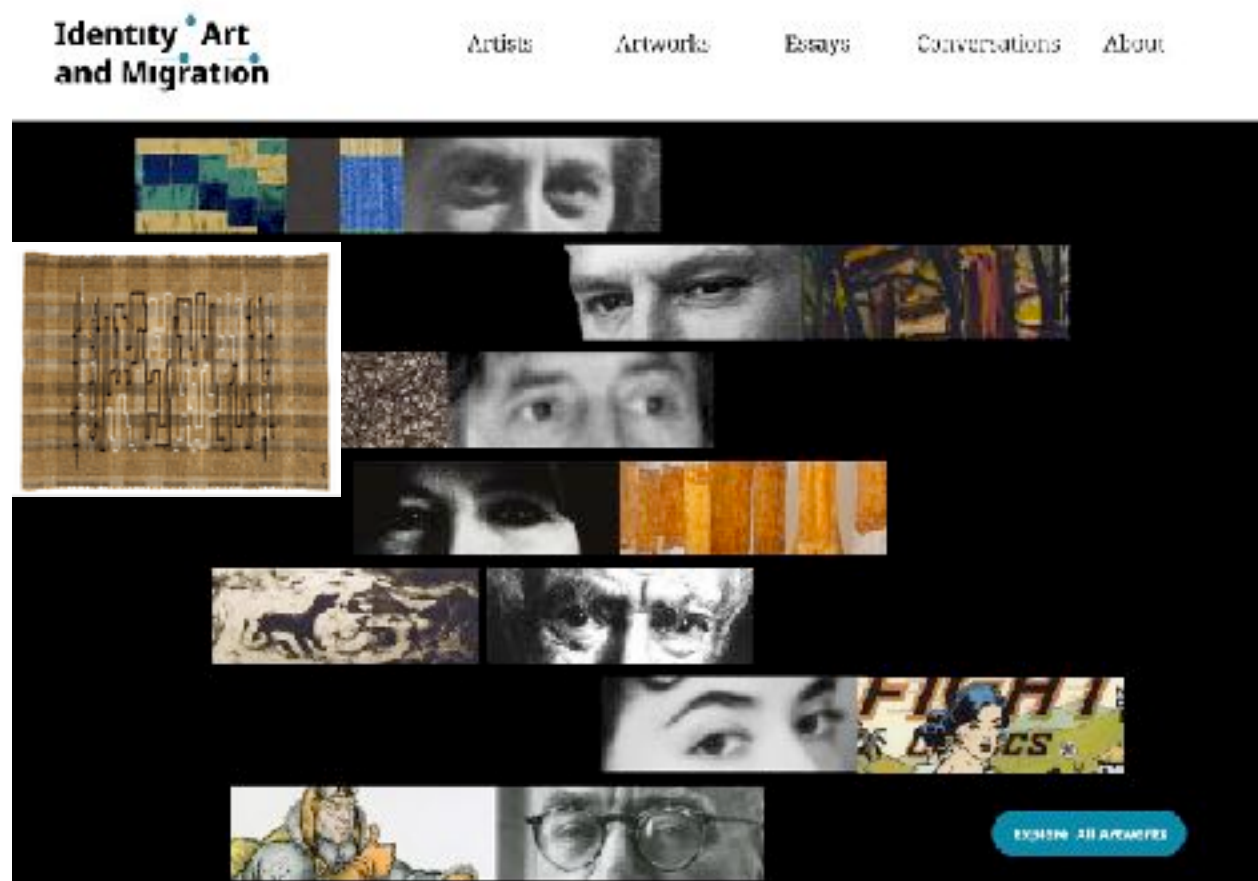
Director and CEO
The Fritz Ascher Society
for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art

VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS

“Identity, Art and Migration” (IAM) (<https://migration.fritzaschersociety.org/>)

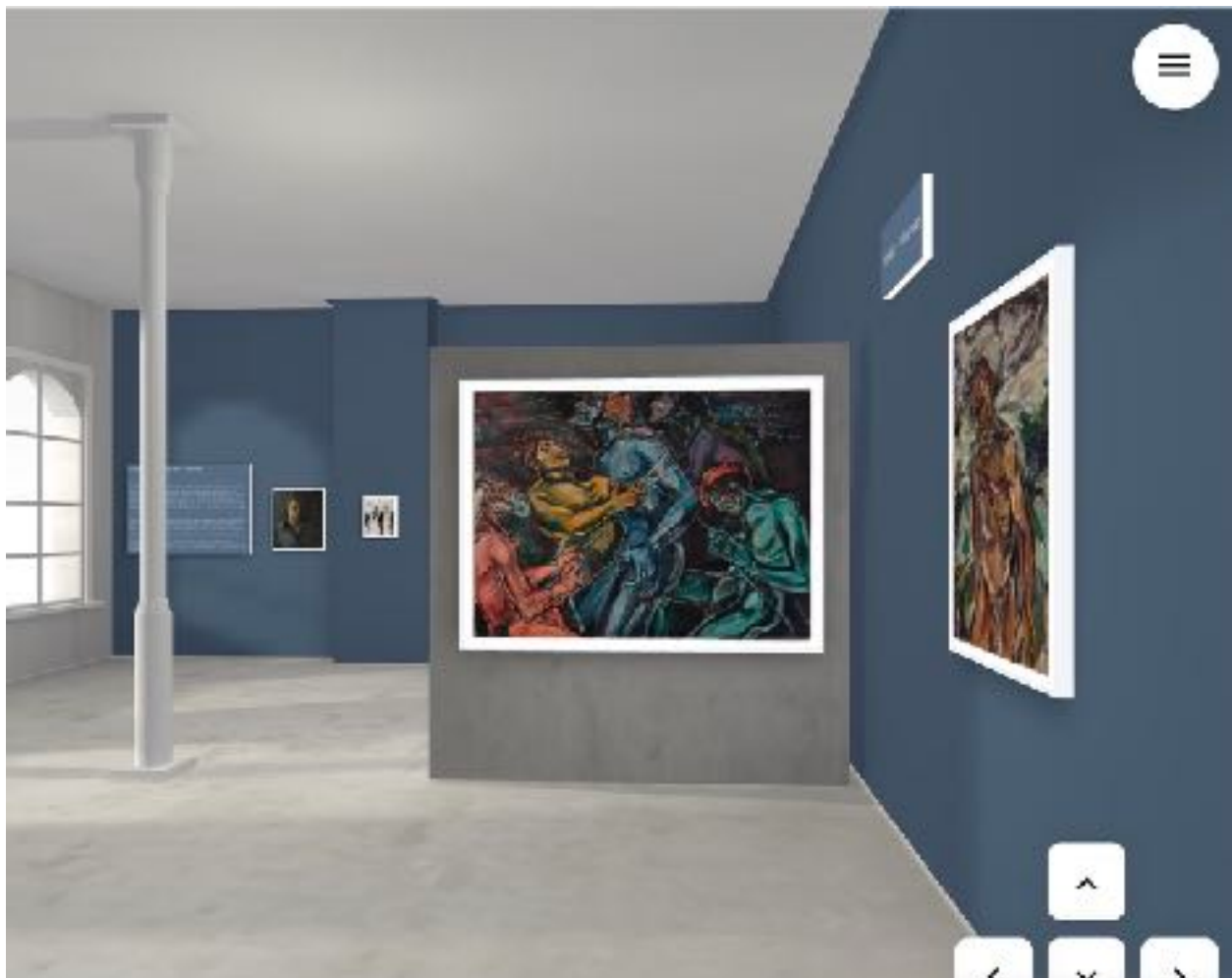
The online exhibition was launched on January 23, 2022, and is on view until 2025.

Responding to today’s unprecedented numbers of migrants, our virtual exhibition “Identity, Art and Migration” investigates the experience of seven Jewish European artists who were forced to abandon their country of origin, or remain in hiding for years, in response to Nazi policies in effect from 1933 to 1945. These six artists: Anni Albers, Friedel Dzubas, Eva Hesse, Rudi Lesser, Lily Renée and Arthur Szyk emigrated to the United States, while one, Fritz Ascher, stayed behind in Germany, hiding in a basement for three years. These artists’ lives and work address the multi-layered concept of identity and the particulars of its expression from slightly different angles. In scholarly essays, weekly virtual discussions and two virtual conferences between October 13, 2021 and January 5, 2022, and a multi-layered virtual exhibition launched in February 2022, we explored how these wrenching experiences affected their sense of who they were, and the art they made.



The **virtual exhibition “Fritz Ascher: Themes and Variations”** was extended to September 30, 2023. (<https://fritzaschersociety.org/fritz-ascher-themes-and-variations/>).

It allows a virtual tour of important examples from the oeuvre of the German Jewish Expressionist artist Fritz Ascher (1893-1970). These selected works are representative not only of critical moments in Ascher’s personal and artistic development, but also of key themes that occupied Ascher’s attention throughout his career. Through the links in every image description, and again on the website page dedicated to the exhibition, those key themes are explored in videos and interviews, photos and artworks, short introductions and scholarly texts.



LIVE EVENTS



January 23

Identity and Migration. Artists and Composers who Fled Persecution

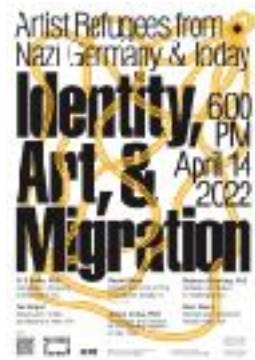
Panel Discussion with Ori Z Soltes PhD (Washington DC), Rebecca Erbelding PhD (Washington DC), Stephen M Rasche JD (Erbil, Kurdistan Region, Iraq), and David Stern (New York NY). Musical Performance (Piano) by Carolyn Enger. Sheen Center for Thought & Culture, New York



March 10

Arnold Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire and the Role of the Clown in the Arts

Concert organized by Hannah Harnest; with Hannah Harnest-Piano, Sophie Delphis-Mezzo Soprano, Abi Kralik-Violin, Adam Kramer-Viola, Sean Hawthorne-Cello, Denis Savelyev-Flute, Bixby Kennedy Clarinet, Teddy Poll-Conductor with Pre-Concert Talk by Rachel Stern (Fritz Ascher Society) and Stephen Decatur Smith (Stony Brook University) 1014 New York, NY



April 14 (821 views)

Identity, Art and Migration: Artist Refugees from Nazi Germany and Today"

Panel Discussion with Yasi Alipour, Rebecca Erbelding, PhD, Ori Z Soltes, PhD, and David Stern. Moderated by Jeremy Cohan, PhD and Rachel Stern Presented by BFA Visual & Critical Studies, the SVA Honors Program, and The Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized, and Banned Art. School of Visual Arts, New York



August 18

Sneak Preview of Theatrical Release "Three Minutes – A Lengthening"

Post-Screening Q&A with Director Bianca Stigter and Author Glenn Kurtz, moderated by Dr. Ori Z Soltes This special screening was co-sponsored by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany New York and the World Jewish Congress North America, in cooperation with



the Abraham Berger Foundation, Descendants of Holocaust Survivors, German Film Office (a joint initiative of German Films and Goethe-Institut), Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), Leo Baeck Institute, March of the Living, Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 3GNY, 3GNJ & 3G Philly, and Mean Streets Management, Overton VC and Cayle White Advisory Group. Quad Cinema, New York



October 23

Flucht ins Überleben [Escape to Survival]. Four Berlin Biographies from the Time of National Socialism

Lectures by Rachel Stern from the Fritz Ascher Society New York and Dr. Martina Weinland, Commissioner for Cultural Heritage at the Stadtmuseum Berlin. The actor, writer, stage director and moderator Ilja Richter reads poems by Fritz Ascher and excerpts from his latest book *Nehmen Sie's persönlich. Porträts von Menschen, die mich prägten*. Organized by Fritz Ascher Stiftung at Stadtmuseum Berlin. Made possible by Ursula Lachnit-Fixson Stiftung. Märkisches Museum, Berlin (Germany)



November 14

Welcoming the Stranger: Abrahamic Hospitality and Its Contemporary Implications One Day Conference

Speakers: Thomas Massaro, S.J. (New York NY), Mohsin Mohi-Ud-Din, Carol Prendergast (New York NY), Zeki Saritoprak, PhD (Cleveland OH), Ori Z Soltes (Washington DC), Rachel Stern (New York NY), Hon. Mimi E. Tsankov (New York NY). Moderated by Ori Z Soltes. Welcoming remarks by Endy Moraes, LL.M. (Fordham University) and Rachel Stern (Fritz Ascher Society). Organized by The Fritz Ascher Society for Persecuted, Ostracized and Banned Art and Fordham University's Institute on Religion, Law & Lawyer's Work, in collaboration with Fordham University's Center for Jewish Studies. Generously sponsored by Allianz Corporation. Fordham University, New York, NY

November 21

Reckonings. Film Screening

With post screening Q&A with Karen Heilig, Claims Conference Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, NY



VIRTUAL EVENTS

We continued the highly successful **Zoom lecture series “Flight or Fight. stories of artists under repression,”** which investigates the fates and creative capacity of both well-known and obscure artists who were affected by German National Socialist rule. All lectures were recorded and are available on our YouTube channel.



January 5, 2022

The Pencil and the Sword. How Lily Renée (1921-2022) put her Art to Work Against the Nazis

Featuring Sabine Bergler, Curator and Collection Manager, and Michael Freund, Writer and Guest Curator, both Jewish Museum Vienna (Austria)



February 1, 2022

Boris Lurie: Searching for Truth in Holocaust Images

Featuring Eckhart Gillen, PhD, Berlin (Germany)



March 2, 2022

Jussuf Prince of Thebes – Re-constructing the life and work of a forgotten talent from Safed

Featuring Dorothea Schöne, PhD, Berlin (Germany)



March 20, 2023

Visualizing the Past: John Less' Depictions of his Holocaust Refuge in Shanghai

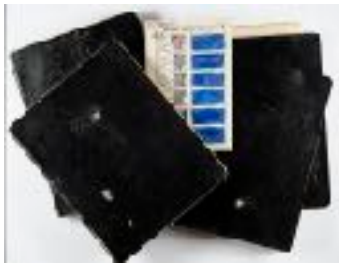
Featuring Steven Less and Hannah-Lea Wasserfuhr.
Moderator Bob Stein. Discussions Rachel Stern and Esther Benjamin Shifren



April 6, 2022

Ben-Zion (1897-1987): Man of Many Faces

Featuring Tabita Shalem and Ori Z Soltes, PhD



May 4, 2022

**Prison Diaries by Hans Uhlmann, 1933-1935:
Drawing as Life Line**

Featuring Dorothea Schöne, PhD, Berlin (Germany)



May 18, 2022

ART FOR NO ONE:

Artists in Germany between 1933 and 1945

Lecture by Ilka Voermann, Frankfurt/Main (Germany)



June 1, 2022

Charlotte Salomon (1917-1943):

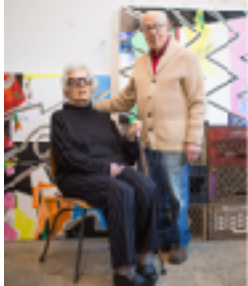
A Life Before Auschwitz

Lecture by Monica Bohm-Duchen, London (UK)



June 22, 2022

**Charlotte. Animated Film about
German-Jewish Artist Charlotte Salomon (1917-1943)**
Producer Julia Rosenberg in conversation with Ori Z Soltes



July 6, 2022

Judith and Gerson Leiber.
A Life of Beauty, Love and Inspiration
Lecture by Ann Fristoe Stewart



July 20, 2022

Nazi Billionaires.
The Dark History of Germany's Wealthiest Dynasties
Author David de Jong and Rachel Stern in conversation



July 26, 2022

Death and Immortality:
The Gentle Power of Hans von Trotha's "Pollak's Arm"
Hans von Trotha and Ori Z Soltes in conversation



August 3, 2022

Ludwig and Else Meidner.
An Artist Couple Exiled in London
Lecture by Erik Riedel, Frankfurt/Main (Germany)



September 7, 2022

Behind the Bronze.

The Sculptor Maurice Blik (born 1939 Amsterdam)

Featuring Maurice Blik and Julian Freeman (both London, UK)



September 28, 2022

**The Enduring Legacy of
Chaim Gross (1902-1991)**

With Daughter Mimi Gross and Sasha Davis



October 3, 2022

**From Generation to Generation:
The Upbringing and Art of**

Mimi Gross (born 1940, New York)



November 2, 2022

Out of Exile.

The Photography of Fred Stein (1909-1967)

With Son Peter Stein and Curator Ulrike Kuschel, Berlin (Germany)



December 7, 2022

The Shape and Color of Survival.

Samuel Bak (born Vilnius, Lithuania, 1933)

Lecture by Ori Z Soltes, PhD

This year, we have organized two virtual events that featured projects of the Arolsen Archives:



On January 26, 2022 - International Holocaust Remembrance Day - we continued our ongoing partnership with the Arolsen Archives and Yad Vashem with the crowdsourcing initiative **#EVERYNAMECOUNTS**, recording names and paths of persecution! We digitally transcribed names and data from scanned historical documents so this information can be found in the Online Archive in the future. No specialist knowledge is needed – everyone can contribute.

(<https://fritzaschersociety.org/digifas/everynamecounts/>)

On June 26, 2022, Christoph Kreutzmüller, Berlin (Germany) spoke about **#LastSeen – Pictures of Nazi Deportations**



Between 1938 and 1945, the National Socialists deported hundreds of thousands of men, women and children from the German Reich to ghettos and camps. The deportations took place everywhere, in broad daylight and for all to see. And yet so far only a few photos are known. Knowing these pictures tell many stories – of the deportees, the perpetrators, and the spectators – this initiative invites your participation in helping us to discover and analyze previously unknown photographs that survive in

museums, archives, private attics, basements, or dusty photo albums.