



Original artwork credit: Gilad Seliktar



Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives

Winter 2024 Newsletter

Dear all,

The new year is a time to begin again and renew our efforts. In the early days of 2024, we have already seen the building excitement as the artists and survivors are meeting, talking, and co-creating. These personal connections are transformative for both survivor and artist and we are thrilled to see what the artists will create during this year, with the AGM in Vancouver as a key event in the process.

In conversations with the five Research Cluster Co-Leads, we are hearing about the capability of the graphic narrative as an empowering visual tool for gathering and sharing testimony; one that gives agency to survivors. This conversation will continue on with the 2024 Art and Testimony webinar series.

One of the many insights and research findings of the SCVN project is the way that it brings together such a diverse group of artists, survivors, scholars, and community partners; sharing the lived experiences of survivors to foster understanding, compassion and hope.

As many of us continue to be deeply impacted by the war in the Middle East, we reiterate and uphold our commitment to provide a community of care for all project participants and community partners.

With gratitude,
Charlotte, Andrea, and Jennifer

2023 In Review

2023 saw many exciting new developments for the SCVN project. As artists and survivors begin to connect, as filmmakers begin to gather stories, and as we begin to share the work with our global audiences, it is important that we take the time to pause and reflect.

While much of the important work on this project continues to be behind-the-scenes, we look forward to celebrating the achievements of each of the Research Clusters in the coming years.

Research Cluster Highlights

Klaus and Gilad (Holocaust Research Cluster)

In May 2023, graphic artist Gilad Seliktar met with Klaus Zwilsky in Palm Springs, CA to begin gathering the stories of Klaus' life, framed by his early experiences as a child survivor of the Holocaust.



Klaus (left) and Gilad (right) at Klaus' home in Palm Springs. Photograph by Charlotte Schallié.

They were joined by Klaus' wife, Roberta Safer, SCVN co-director, Charlotte Schallié, and videographer Guochen Wang. Filmmaker Chorong Kim will produce a short documentary telling the story of this meeting and the creation of Gilad's graphic novel later this year.

Rose and Miriam (Holocaust Research Cluster)

In June 2023, graphic artist Miriam Libicki and Research Cluster Co-Lead Mark Celinscak interviewed Rose Lipszyc in Toronto, ON. Rose welcomed the documentary team into her home where they spent several days listening to her stories, aided by her extensive collections of photographs and memorabilia.



Miriam (left), Rose (center), and Mark (right) looking through Rose's photo albums. Photograph by Chorong Kim.

The short documentary sharing the story of Miriam's creative process, grounded in this week-long meeting, will be produced by filmmaker Chorong Kim in 2024.

Emmie and Barbara (Holocaust Research Cluster)

In November 2023, [‘Emmie Arbel. Die Farbe der Erinnerung’](#) [[Emmie Arbel. The Colour of Memory](#)] was published and immediately began to receive positive reviews and public responses. ‘The Colour of Memory’ shares Barbara’s thoughtful memory work with Emmie Arbel, building on the collaborative relationship that began with [‘But I Live’ \(2022\)](#).

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Kultur Comics Comic-Biografie „Emmie Arbel“: Fluss der Erinnerung



Comic-Biografie „Emmie Arbel“ Fluss der Erinnerung

Die Zeichnerin Barbara Yelin hat zusammen mit der Holocaust-Überlebenden Emmie Arbel ein herausragendes Stück Erinnerungsliteratur geschaffen.

Von [Lars von Törne](#)

Heute, 16:47 Uhr

“For her, Yelin once said, drawing is a process of searching, recognizing and carefully approaching reality. In ‘Emmie Arbel – The Colour of Memory’ she masterfully shows where this process can lead.”

Lars von Törne, 2023
(Translated by Charlotte Schallié)

'The Colour of Memory' went into its second printing at the end of December 2023. It has also been selected as the February 2024 "[Book of the Month](#)" by The German Academy for Children's and Youth Literature [Die Deutsche Akademie für Kinder- und Jugendliteratur].

Akram and Tobi (Iraq & Syria Research Cluster)

In November 2023, graphic artist Tobi Dahmen and Research Cluster Co-Lead Uğur Ümit Üngör met with Akram Al Saud, a survivor of the ongoing Syrian conflict. Tobi's graphic novel sharing Akram's story and a short documentary of this process produced by filmmaker Lidija Zelovic are in progress.



Tobi (left) and Akram (right). Photograph by Lidija Zelovic.

Teaching and Training Highlights

Workshops

A significant part of the SCVN project is the way that we continue to learn as a community. In 2023, we organized several training workshops to support project members and students as they engage with this work.

- “Trauma-Informed Approaches for Working with Genocide Survivors” workshop for research assistants, artists, and filmmakers with Erin Jessee
- “Teaching Transcription using the Ethics of Trauma-Informed Research Webinar Series” HUMA 180 practicum, University of Victoria



Matt Huculak, Jennifer Sauter, and Janine Wulz (left) with HUMA 180 students (right) from the Fall 2023 practicum. Photograph by Charlotte Schallié.

Events & Programs

On January 25, we were joined by Dr. Hank Greenspan to start off the 2024 webinar series on the theme of [Art and Testimony](#). This webinar series explores the way that arts-based methods can enhance and disrupt traditional forms of testimony collection, emphasizing a relational and collaborative mode of gathering stories.



SURVIVOR-CENTRED
VISUAL NARRATIVES



UBC Public Humanities



Art and Testimony Webinar Series

Listening, Telling, Showing (and back): The Practice of a Holocaust scholar-teacher- playwright-actor

Dr. Henry “Hank” Greenspan
PhD., Professor Emeritus
University of Michigan



Thursday, January 25, 2024 • 9:00 -10:30 am PST

The complete playlist of the previous webinar series “The Ethics of Trauma-Informed Research” is available on the [UBC-V Public Humanities Hub Youtube Channel](#).

Communications & Connections

In addition to this newsletter, we are launching a new social media content strategy. A major goal of this content is to facilitate community in digital space and we need your support.

Get Involved:

Follow our social media accounts for project updates and stories:

Instagram: @survivorvisualnarratives

Facebook: Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives

X/Twitter: @SCVNarratives

LinkedIn: Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives

Submit stories and updates to rcostain@uvic.ca to be featured on our social media and blog

Tag us in your content for a re-share!