

Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives

Summer 2024 Newsletter

Dear all,

As the sun passes its zenith and the days stretch long, the summer season offers us an opportunity to pause and rejuvenate. Summer is often synonymous with relaxation and adventure. It's a time to enjoy the simple pleasures and replenish our energies. Whether you're planning a getaway or the joys of a staycation, let this season be one of rest as we plan for the coming year.

In our current fast-paced world, it's easy to overlook the profound impact of rest on our overall wellbeing. Summer presents an ideal opportunity to recalibrate and prioritize self-care. As we navigate the joys and challenges of life, remember that looking after yourself is not an indulgence but a necessity. Being healthy and present gives us the strength to take steps with and for the survivors involved in this project and act as advocates for all survivors of genocide. This summer, let us recommit to self-care practices that nurture and sustain us, allowing us to thrive in all aspects of our lives.

Looking back on the past few months, we all have been busy working with the survivors and artists – gathering testimony, developing transcripts, and creating the graphic narratives. There is much to celebrate:

- Artists have been bringing their work with this and other projects to the public
- A panel discussion on “Witnesses of Violence: Stories of Genocide Survivors in Graphic Novels” hosted by project partner NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies and included Tobi Dahmen, Charlotte Schallié, Akram al-Saud, Leyla Ferman, Kees Ribbens, and Uğur Ümit Üngör
- PhD student Anna Wohlgemuth visited UVic's Centre for Global Studies as part of SCVN's

matching graduate fellowships with the Centre

- The Turtle Island Research Cluster (Shannon Leddy, Biz Nijdam, Duncan McCue, Mike Auksi, Natasha Donovan, Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley) supported the learning at the recent AGM organized by Andrea Webb, Jennifer Sauter, and Shannon Leddy
- The research team at the Zurich University of the Arts (Anna Wohlgemuth, Andreas Bürgisser, and Anton Rey) hosted a cooperative arts-based research incubator in Zurich, Switzerland
- Barbara Yelin and Charlotte Schallié co-facilitated a workshop on arts-based research methods (“Archives of Memory”) at the Zurich University of the Arts
- Charlotte Schallié just completed her service as Chair of Germanic and Slavic Studies at UVic

We hope that you will embrace this season as a time of renewal. Whether you are off on a new adventure or taking quiet moments to complete other tasks, we hope that your summer will be filled with moments of joy and well-being.

We look forward to re-connecting in the fall!

With all good wishes,
Charlotte, Andrea, and Jennifer

Project Updates

One of the most exciting aspects of the SCVN project is the development of original graphic narratives by the project artists. As the artists meet with survivors, joining in conversation and thoughtfully navigating memory, these narratives begin to take shape.

Artist Highlights

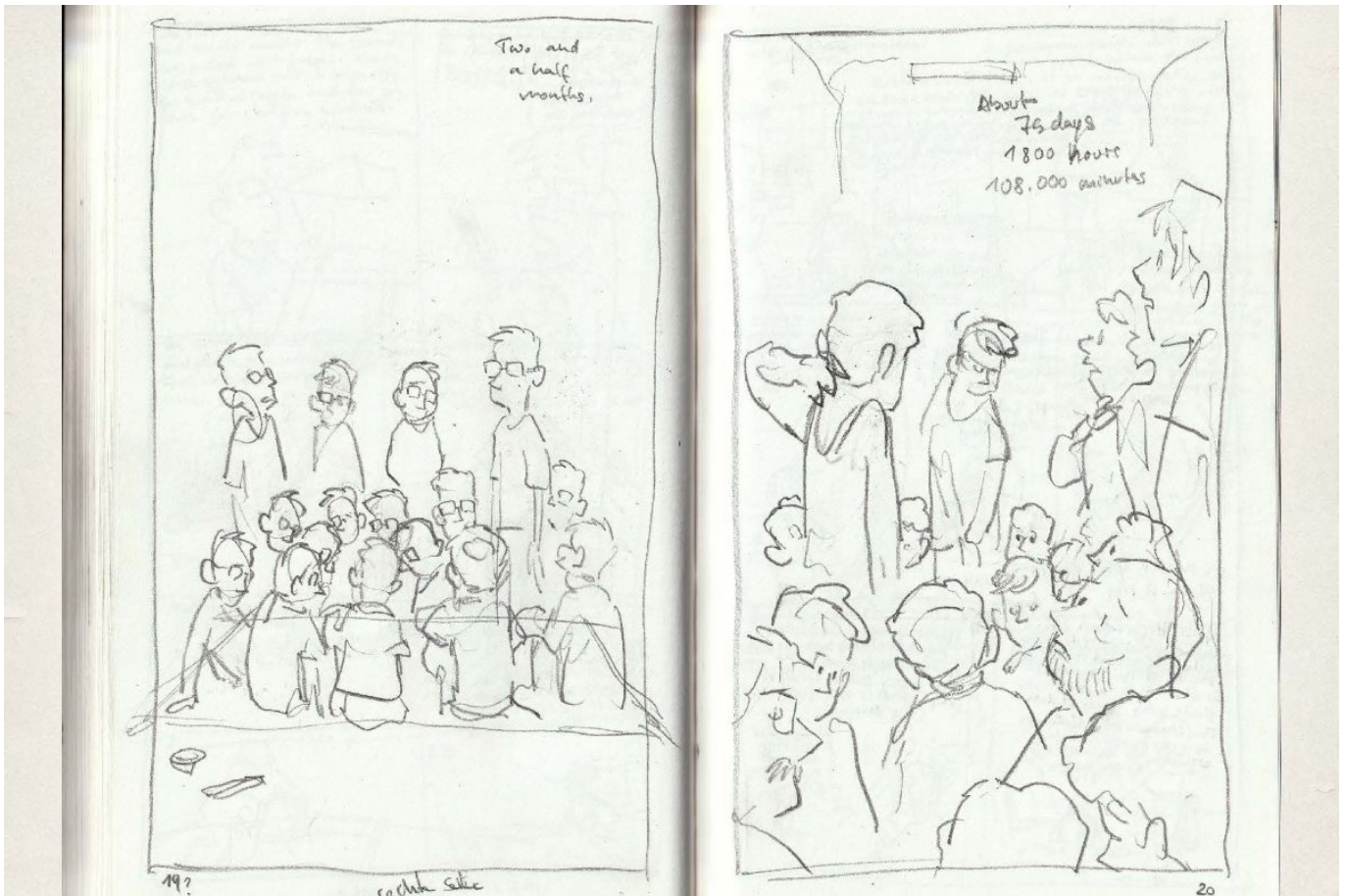
All five of the Research Clusters are in progress and the artists working with each cluster are at different stages of their graphic narrative development. We are very pleased to share some of the process sketches shared with us from Tobi Dahmen (Iraq & Syria Research Cluster), Gilad Seliktar (Holocaust Research Cluster), Miriam Libicki (Holocaust Research Cluster), and Anneli Furmark (Yugoslav Wars Research Cluster).

Akram and Tobi (Iraq & Syria Research Cluster)

Tobi Dahmen has been working with Akram, a survivor of the violence in Syria, since February 2023.



Preliminary sketches of Akram and Ugur by Tobi Dahmen, Fall 2023.



Concept sketches by Tobi Dahmen, Fall 2023.

Klaus and Gilad (Holocaust Research Cluster)

Gilad Seliktar has been working with Holocaust child survivor, Klaus Zwilsky, since the fall of 2022.



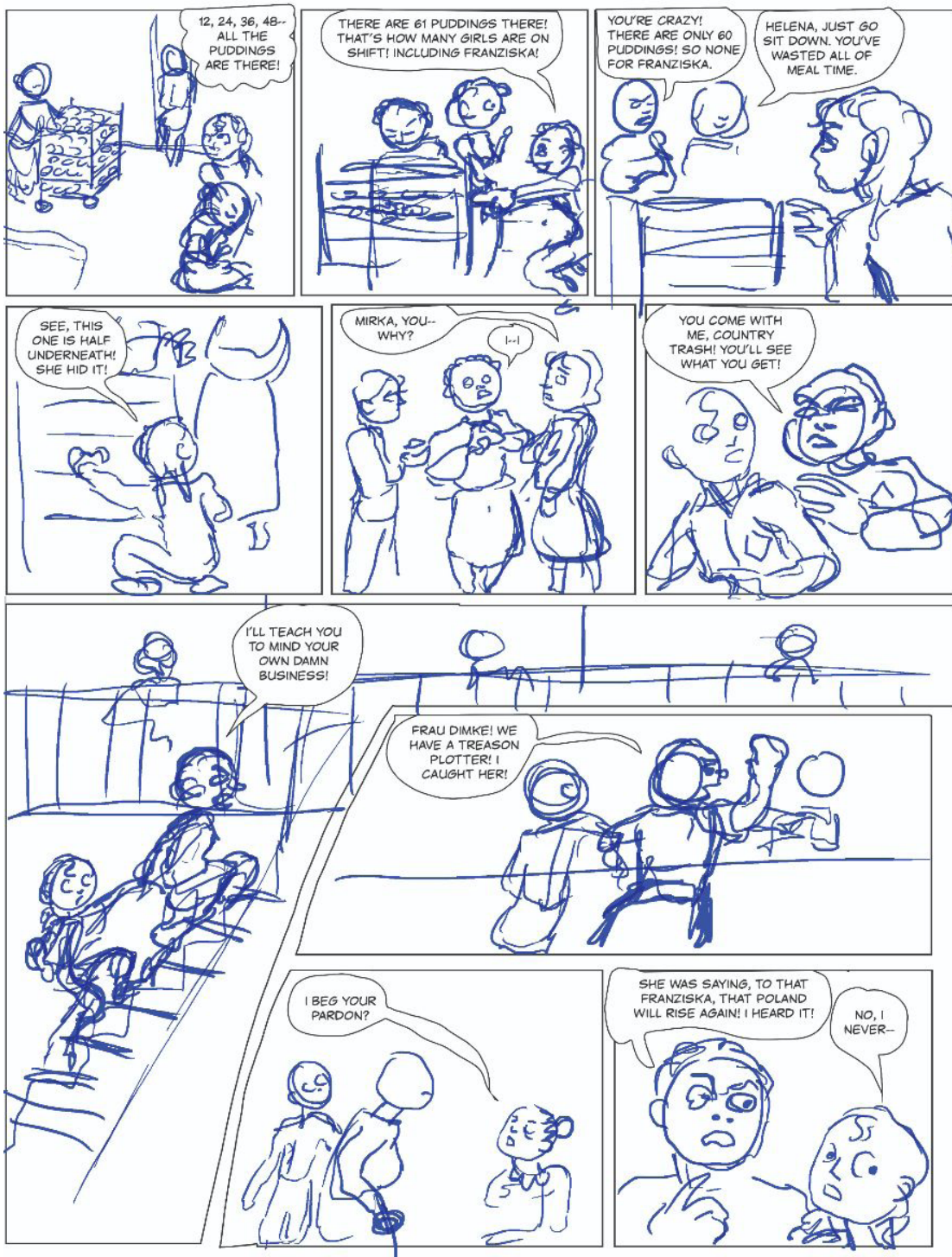
Sketch of Klaus Zwilsky in Palm Springs by Gilad Seliktar.



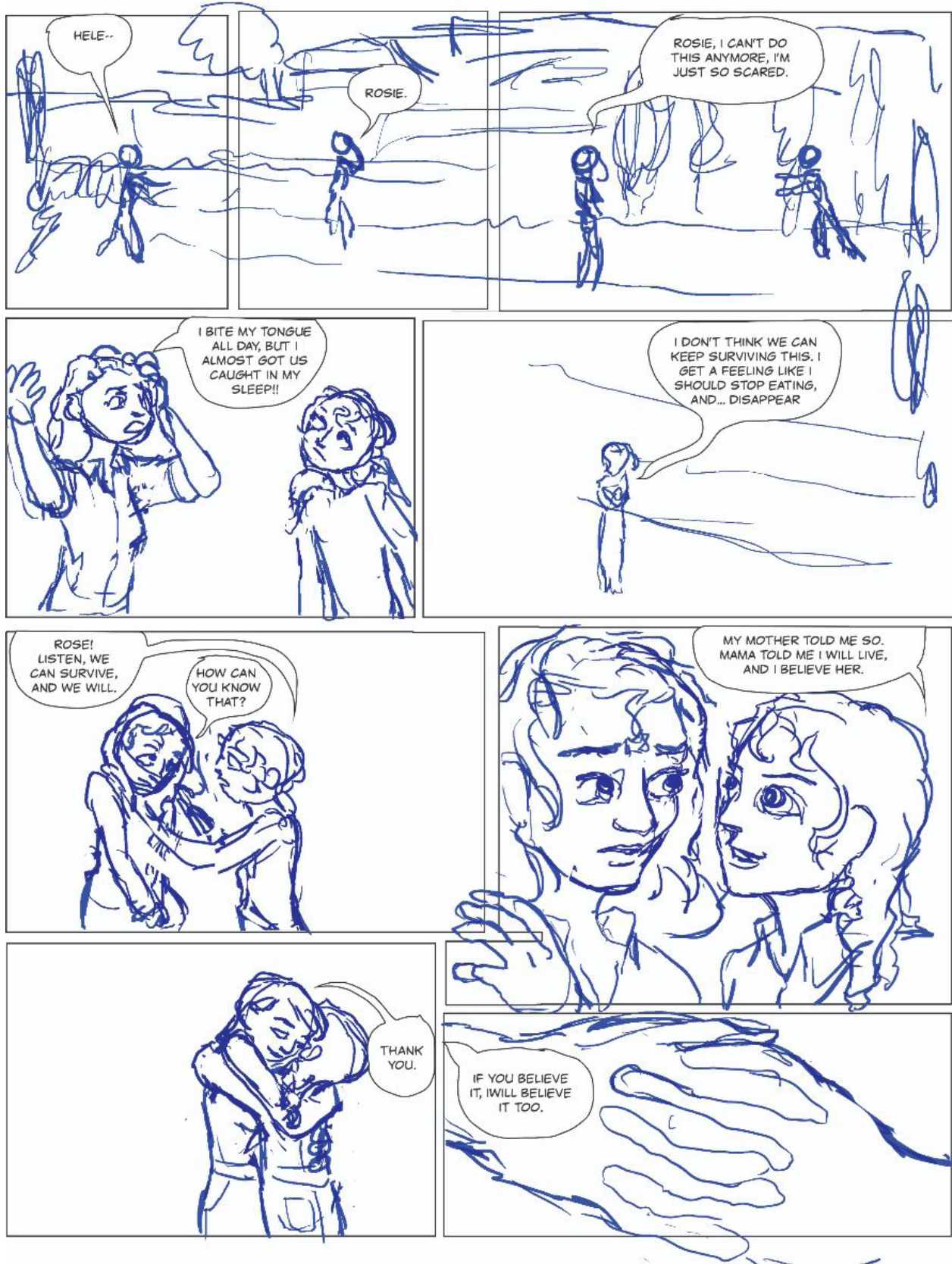
Sketch of Klaus Zwilsky in his home in Palm Springs by Gilad Seliktar.

Rose and Miriam (Holocaust Research Cluster)

Miriam Libicki has been working with Holocaust child survivor, Rose Lipszyc, since June 2023.



Draft panels from the upcoming graphic novel about Rose Lipszyc's life by Miriam Libicki.



Sketches depicting a young Rose by Miriam Libicki.

Almasa and Anneli (Yugoslav Wars Research Cluster)

Anneli Furmark has been working with Almasa, a survivor of the violence in Srebrenica, since September 2023.



Sketch by Anneli Furmark, September 2023.



Landscape sketches of Srebrenica by Anneli Furmark, September 2023.

While we look forward to sharing the completed graphic novels as a means of honouring the survivors and their stories, it's important to remember that the unfolding process of creating revealed in the sketches above allows the survivors the opportunity to guide how the narratives are made.

Events & Programs

Community Building

Annual General Meeting 2024: Landed Learning and Indigenous Ways of Knowing

From June 18-20, many of the project artists along with research assistants, the project co-directors, and several Research Cluster leads met in Vancouver for the 2024 Annual General Meeting. We prioritized a gathering for the graphic artists working on the project, to share their experiences, unique inquiries, and to continue to build a foundation of community and knowledge. This meeting was hosted on the unceded territory of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam) people and centred around the concept of landed learning.

In addition to important conversations around working with survivors and archiving project artwork, the gathering also presented the opportunity for team members to meet across-clusters, to share challenges, and to offer support to one another.



SCVN Annual General Meeting at UBC, June 20, 2024. Image credit Charlotte Schallié.



SCVN project members attending graphic artist Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley's exhibit opening June 20, 2024.



Art making workshop with Andrea Webb (left) and Shannon Leddy (right), June 19, 2024. Image credit Charlotte Schallié.

Panels and Presentations

Archives of Memory: Comic Drawing as a Critical Tool for Scientific Inquiry and Interdisciplinary Collaboration

In early July, this workshop facilitated by Barbara Yelin and Charlotte Schallié and hosted by Zurich University of the Arts explored the dynamics of collaborative memory work, witnessing, and visual storytelling. Many of the SCVN project artists attended to share their experiences with the process of creating graphic narratives with survivor testimony.



SCVN artists meeting in Zurich, July 2024. Image credit Charlotte Schallié.



SCVN artist sketches from the Archives of Memory workshop in Zurich, July 2024. Image credit Charlotte Schallié.

Witnesses of Violence: Stories of Genocide Survivors in Graphic Novels

Project partners were invited to speak on a panel in Amsterdam on 'Witnesses of Violence: Stories of Genocide Survivors in Graphic Novels' on May 28, 2024. Witnesses, researchers, and artists reflected on the ways graphic novels can gather and represent stories of violence and genocide. The panel included Tobi Dahmen, Charlotte Schallié, Akram, Leyla Ferman, Kees Ribbens, and Uğur Ümit Üngör. We are grateful to be hosted by our project partner NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies at SPUI25 in Amsterdam for this event.



Akram, Tobi Dahmen, and Kees Ribbens in Amsterdam, May 2024. Image credit Charlotte Schallié.



Tobi Dahmen, Leyla Ferman, and Akram in Amsterdam, May 2024. Image credit Charlotte Schallié.

Webinars

We are eagerly planning the second half of the 'Art and Testimony' webinar series, for fall 2024, which brings critical issues in art-based research into a contemporary focus. Our previous webinars in the series are available to watch available on the [UBC-V Public Humanities Hub Youtube Channel](#).

Student Spotlight

PhD candidate Anna Wohlgemuth was granted a graduate fellowship co-sponsored by the Centre for Global Studies as part of SCVN's matching graduate fellowships with the Centre. The fellowship supported Anna's visit to Canada in June to present her research at UVic and attend the project's AGM in Vancouver. Her arts-based project titled 'room-to-move' explored the complicated nature of memory as represented by the interplay of darkness and light.

room-to-move

an arts-based research project by Anna Wohlgemuth

Black or empty panels are often used in visual narratives as gaps for missing memories. These black panels serve as the starting point to share the process of my arts-based research project at the Centre for Global Studies. I explore the dualities of darkness and light, along with their imaginative and fictional potential narratives. What do the nuances in between tell us?

June 13, 2024 | 11:00-12:30pm PDT

Free Admission

David Turpin building (DTB) A104



**University
of Victoria**

Centre for
Global Studies



Communications & Connections

Our new website is under development and we are committed to representing all of our project partners. If you don't see your bio posted to the "Our Team" page, please contact the email address below.

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 commsvisual@uvic.ca to be featured on our social media and blog

Tag us in your content for a re-share!