

Inge Auerbacher, Kurt Hillmann, Charlotte Knobloch,
Leon Weintraub, Ruth Winkelmann

Voices – Survivors

Leon Weintraub
during the recording
session at Volucap,
2023:

“As you can imagine, there aren’t many people older than me who can still travel around and give talks, and speak about that time, and also not very many people younger than me, because they also ... they also didn’t survive the National Socialist regime.”



Charlotte Knobloch in her book
In Deutschland angekommen – Erinnerungen
(Arriving in Germany – Memories),
Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, Munich, 2012:

“Now, 68 years later, I’m standing in the middle of this city. Munich. I don’t want to suppress the memories of what I saw when fleeing from it with my father, holding his hand on the streets. Those images are part of my life. And I overcame my fear. If you’ve gone through this mental anguish and come to terms with it, you’ve gained the courage to be free. And the courage to keep standing up and starting again. ... I’m gathering my feelings and thoughts and raising my voice.”

Inge Auerbacher in her book *Ich bin ein Stern* (I am a star),
Gulliver in der Verlagsgruppe Beltz, Weinheim, 1992:

“Soon [1945, editor’s note] we found permanent housing in Göppingen. The mayor invited us to the town hall. When we walked into his office, my mother immediately noticed the oriental rug. It was ours. The grandfather clock had a familiar chime. It had also been ours. When we were deported to Theresienstadt, all our belongings were distributed to different Christian families. Some ended up in the town hall. The city’s residents, who feared reprisals on our part, insisted they had known nothing about the atrocities we’d experienced. They said they’d never hated the Jews and therefore weren’t guilty of any crimes. Why then hadn’t they inquired about the fate of so many innocent people who were so brutally taken away?”



Ruth Winkelmann in conversation with Katalin Krasznahorkai at the opening ceremony of the *For real?* exhibition in Potsdam, 2023:

"To me it felt like being a block of ice, because everything around me was completely white. Just white with a few holes, where I had to speak, but I didn't really know how. I knew those holes were cameras, and could deal with cameras, I've filmed a lot myself, but in that moment, I felt like a block of ice. And I had to get out. But first I took a deep breath, a really deep one, and exhaled. I'd been a competitive swimmer so know that deep breathing can give you a lot of power. And then I made myself pull it together and answer the questions, and hope I did it well."

Kurt Hillmann during the recording session at Volucap, 2023:

"Germany was certainly never free of antisemitism and it's highly probable that we might never be completely free of it. But the point is for this type of attitude, this attitude unworthy of human beings, to not get the upper hand. We can't get rid of the past with our history. We have to take history as it was, and we have to view it honestly and recognize murder as murder, and not – as it happened – try to make murderers into accomplices to murder."

