

The Jewish Museum Creglingen presents the exhibition

# The Lonka Project

**A photographic tribute to the Holocaust survivors**

Initiators and co-directors: Rina Castelnuovo und Jim Hollander

Curator in Berlin: Gisela Kayser, Freundeskreis WBH

**Exhibition from March 11 - May 01 2022**

**Opening: Friday, March 11 2022, 19:00 hrs**

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Tsafirir Abayiv: Shaul Paul Ladany  
© Tsafirir Abayov / The Lonka Project, 2019 (Israel) Tel Aviv



Ziv Koren: 4 Survivors  
© Ziv Koren / The Lonka Project, 2019 (Israel)

**The Lonka Project portrays the last survivors of the Holocaust as part of a traveling photo exhibition which was presented by the Freundeskreis Willy-Brandt-Haus e.V. at the Willy Brandt House in Berlin on January 27, 2021 on the occasion of the commemoration day of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp on January 27, 1945 and the victims of the Holocaust.**

**300 of the world's leading photographers from around 30 countries photographed Holocaust survivors in their private surroundings for the Lonka project and created a unique body of work. Renowned photographic artists such as Gilles Peress, Douglas Kirkland, Steve McCurry, José Gi-ribás, Kristian Schuller, Maurice Weiss, Lois Lammerhuber and Marissa Roth were involved.**

The last survivors of the Holocaust still live among us. But who are these people, how do they deal with their history and how could they continue their lives? The Lonka project shows the mothers, fathers, grandmothers, grandfathers, wives and husbands and how they could manage their future lives. A legacy of images for those who soon no longer have eyewitnesses who can make what happened unforgettable.

The Lonka project was initiated in Jerusalem by Jim Hollander and Rina Castelnuovo as a tribute to Rina's mother Lonka, Dr. Eleonora Nass (1926-2018). As a girl, Lonka survived five Nazi concentration camps, and represents the Holocaust survivors' power to live. "We have seen how the project has evolved and grown into an international collaboration in which so many have enthusiastically contributed their talents. We have consistently received pictures from photographers over one whole year and are grateful to everyone for their efforts."

## The Portraited

The results are photos that carry entire biographies and incomprehensible stories. These are stories like those of two-time Olympian race walker Professor Shaul Paul Ladany, who was born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in 1936. When he was eight years old, Shaul survived the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and, as an Israeli Olympian, survived the Munich attack in 1972.

It is also the story of Peggy Parnass, who was born in Hamburg in 1927. In 1939 her mother took the decision to separate from her children and send them to safety. Peggy Parnass became an acclaimed journalist, author and film maker. She wrote hundreds of articles about Nazi mass murders, the Baader-Meinhof Group (RAF) trials, and is considered as an outspoken icon for the gay movement and the oppressed.

And it is the story of Yisrael Meir Lau. In 1945 at the age of eight, he was photographed leaving the Buchenwald concentration camp after his liberation by the US Army. Later he was ordained as a rabbi, became Chief Rabbi of Netanya and was elected Chief Rabbi of Israel in 1993. He was also Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv and was awarded the Israel Prize for his stance on non-Orthodox denominations in Judaism. Also he was awarded the Legion of Honor by France's President Sarkozy and served for many years as the Chairman of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem.

The Lonka project aims to keep alive the memory of these and all other Holocaust survivors and is a hopefully unforgettable educational and artistic photo collection at a time when the challenge of Holocaust remembrance is becoming increasingly difficult.

*An exhibition of the Freundeskreis Willy-Brandt-Haus e.V.*  
Curator | Gisela Kayser