

# Stories of Survival

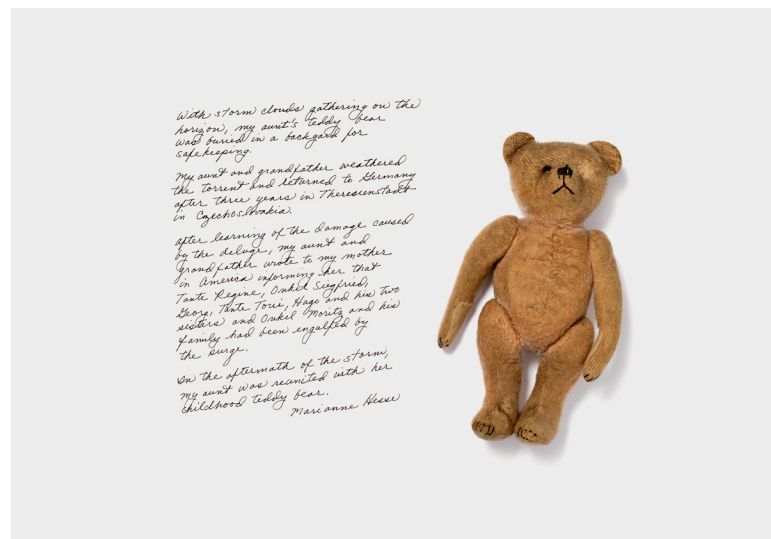
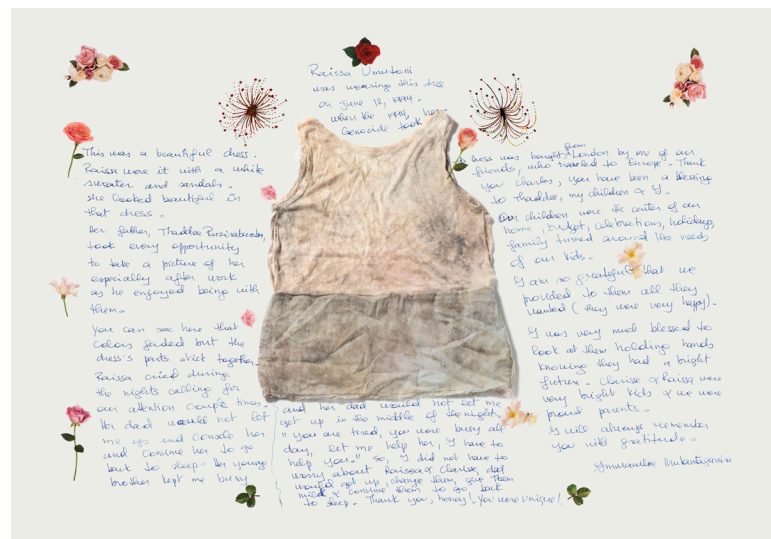
OBJECT · IMAGE · MEMORY

A TRAVELING EXHIBITION FROM ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION:

A teddy bear, a set of house keys, a typewriter – everyday objects that ordinarily provide convenience or comfort take on deeper meaning and become storytellers, in their own right, when they are remnants left from a world destroyed. *Stories of Survival: Object. Image. Memory.* reflects upon the individual stories of 32 survivors of the Holocaust and genocides and conflicts including Armenia, Bosnia, Cambodia, Iraq and Syria, Rwanda, and South Sudan, told through photographs and personal reflections. Created by the Illinois Holocaust Museum and photographer Jim Lommasson, the exhibition includes 23 pull up banners highlighting the precious objects from a survivor and the survivor or their family member(s) reflect on the objects' meaning.

Through the handwritten memories, themes of childhood, home, culture, and religious practice, but also war, violence, displacement, and exile emerge. These stories of survival resulting from incomprehensible inhumanity represent shared human experiences despite differences of time and place: experiences of resilience and courage, the fragility of life, family history, and hope for the future. The exhibition inspires visitors to reflect on their own families' stories of immigration, the meaning behind their keepsakes and heirlooms, and the common experiences of people as they made their way to a new home. It also draws connections between genocides throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, prodding visitors to ask why the promise of "never again" remains unfulfilled.



The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie, Illinois was founded by Holocaust survivors in response to neo-Nazi activities in Skokie in 1978. With the mission to “remember the past and transform the future,” the exhibition draws from the Museum’s significant collection of artifacts from Holocaust survivors, while also pulling from rich connections with other genocide-affected communities. *Stories of Survival* was honored by both the American Alliance of Museums and the American Association of State and Local History for Excellence in Exhibition.

*Stories of Survival* comes with educator materials, a family guide, docent scripts, and a companion catalogue. As part of the exhibition, the Illinois Holocaust Museum has partnered with the Tenement Museum, New York on its “Your Story, Our Story” web platform, which encourages visitors to photograph and share a family object and its significance.

### ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER:

Jim Lommasson is an award-winning photographer and author living in Portland, Oregon. Lommasson is a recipient of the Dorothea Lange–Paul Taylor Prize from The Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. Lommasson’s work has been exhibited nationally at museums and galleries including The Arab American National Museum, The Ellis Island National Immigration Museum, Japanese American National Museum, The Portland Art Museum, and Blue Sky Gallery, Portland.



### CONTENTS:

#### Exhibition Components:

- 23-47 x 78.5” pull-up banners
- Audiovisual component (equipment must be provided by hosting institution)
- Exhibition catalogue (available for purchase) and digital format for iPad

#### Accompanying Materials:

- Press kit (including high resolution images and exhibition style-guide)
- Educational materials including a family guide and pre- and post-visit packets for educators

#### Security Requirements: Low

#### Exhibition Fee:

\$500-\$2,500 depending on exhibition duration

### ABOUT ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER:

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is located in Skokie, Illinois. The mission of IHMEC is expressed in its founding principle: Remember the Past, Transform the Future. The Museum is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Holocaust by honoring the memories of those who were lost and by teaching universal lessons that combat hatred, prejudice, and indifference. The Museum fulfills its mission through the exhibition, preservation, and interpretation of its collections and through education programs and initiatives that foster the promotion of human rights and the elimination of genocide.

### PLEASE DIRECT ALL INQUIRIES TO:

Arielle Weinger  
Chief Curator of Collections and Exhibitions  
Illinois Holocaust Museum  
& Education Center  
9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, IL 60077  
847-967-4817  
Arielle.Weinger@ilhmecc.org



ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM  
& EDUCATION CENTER