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LEST WE FORGET

A PROJECT BY LUIGI TOSCANO

IN COOPERATION WITH THE
GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE

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LEST WE FORGET

A PROJECT BY LUIGI TOSCANO

LEST WE FORGET is a remembrance project by the German-Italian photographer and filmmaker Luigi Toscano. For several years, he has used his distinctive artistic signature to make clear social and political statements.

For LEST WE FORGET, the artist visited and took portraits of more than 200 Holocaust survivors in the United States, Germany, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Belarus and the Netherlands. These pictures are at the center of the unique photographic installation LEST WE FORGET.

Instead of exhibiting them in a museum or in a gallery, Luigi Toscano presents the large-scale portraits in public places, so that they are accessible to everyone. These have included spaces such as parks, public squares or exterior walls. In this way, LEST WE FORGET reaches thousands of people – regardless of age, origin, language or education. Small information panels, a mobile app, a catalogue and a documentary movie complete the installation.

LEST WE FORGET is a testament to all survivors of the Holocaust. Each person's experience was unique yet those experiences represent all those voices that can no longer be heard. The project is much more than just a look back into our past. Through remembrance, we raise awareness of hatred and bigotry in society today. LEST WE FORGET urges everyone to confront the past in order to ensure that nothing like this ever happens again.

In September 2015, the inaugural display of LEST WE FORGET was presented in Mannheim, Germany, Mr. Toscano's hometown, to mark the end of World War II 70 years earlier. The installation was later exhibited in Kiev on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the massacre of Babyn Yar. LEST WE FORGET has also been on display in Berlin, Germany and in Dnipro, Pereiaslav and Lviv, Ukraine.

In 2018, LEST WE FORGET was brought to the United States. Before coming to Boston, it was first shown in January in New York City where the exhibit was installed at the United Nations headquarters to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In April, LEST WE FORGET was shown in Washington, DC in cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where more than 120 portraits were placed

along the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. Around 150,000 visitors could see the world's largest exhibition of this kind in a public space. Further exhibitions are being planned in cities across the US, among them Chicago.

The exhibition on Boston Common features 70 portraits of Holocaust survivors. 9 of them were recently taken in the Boston area.

Special acknowledgement is given to those portrayed, without whom this exhibition would not have been possible. Their strength is incomparable, their trust immeasurable.

Marcel D.
Anna Strishkova
Gertrut Roche
Hermann Spiegel

