



Anke Loewensprung

Lighting Matches during Blackout

A visual Narrative in Slow Motion

Credits

bbp Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung
Bundesarchiv Berlin
Institut für Zeitgeschichte München
Ludwig Maximilian Universität München
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Schmorell Family Archive
Dr. Jochen Vogel, München
Weiße Rose Stiftung, LMU München
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I am grateful for the constructive feedback and the IT assistance I have received.

This installation is a non commercial project and created for academic purposes only. Most of the photographs are my work and an integral part of my installation and book projects.

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Student Activism in Wartime Munich
A Visual Narrative in Slow Motion



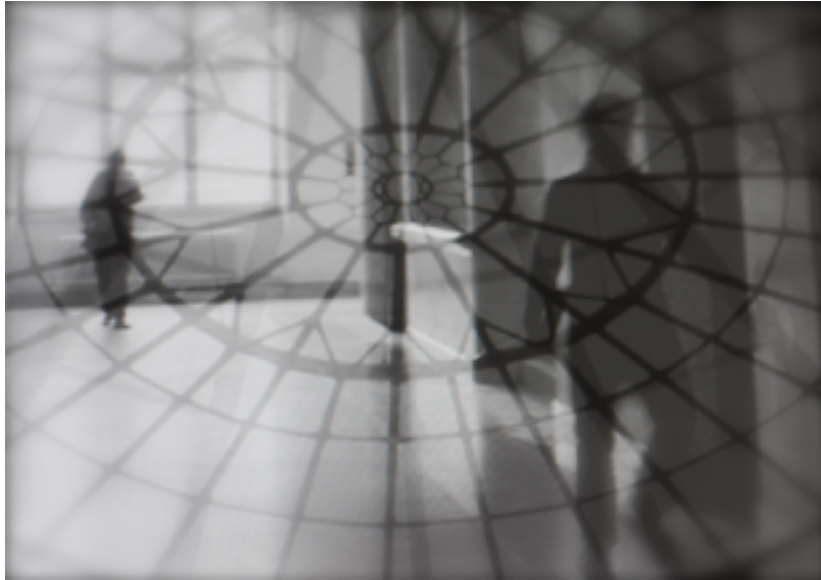
Blackout ?

loss of consciousness
amnesia
communication and media censorship
protection during air strikes

Now everything depends on finding one another again,
on one person enlightening the next,
always reflecting and never resting,
until every last person is convinced ...

Leaflet II, June 1942

Alexander Schmorell and Hans Scholl



Alexander Schmorell

Christoph Probst

Hans Scholl

Sophie Scholl

Willi Graf

The Story

Today it is hard to believe : About one hundred years ago the German City of Munich was a hotbed of Fascism. Spreading from there, a genocidal ideology tyrannised large parts of the globe.

After the start of World War2, four young men - protagonists of this story - were conscripted students, and trained as medics at Munich University. Their strong anti-Nazi convictions and, above all, their passionate belief in freedom and social responsibility, created strong bonds amongst them. This, of course, challenged the totalitarian 'masters'.

For nine short months, (from June 1942 to February 1943) the students, now dissidents, turned their private outrage into public action. They distributed six leaflets, whose message called all Germans to boycott the war. And, yes, to take up their own freedom and creative potential.

In one last attempt to bring about change, they painted slogans on Munich facades and sent leaflets flying into the university atrium. This led to their arrest. Victims of a show trial, they were sentenced to an untimely death. Today their story is alive and most timely.

The Installation

In this conference - to use time well - I am showing a short version of a much longer piece. From the start, I am assuming that participants know the story and the historical photographs of 'The White Rose' dissidents. For those who don't, I have added on-screen texts to complement the images.

In writing about 'The White Rose', these powerful pictures underpin my work on creativity and resistance. To build a new visual narrative, I have mostly used recent photographs. They allow us to move easily from historical events and places, to inner spaces and inner time.

The scene is set in Munich and from there moves to Russia via Warsaw, and back again. As if seen by the flame of a matchstick, the events come into focus briefly and fade away. They are left open and undefined. Perhaps this openness creates space for reading the events from multiple perspectives.



The Scenes

Scene 1

Munich, city and university / 1920 - 1942

Scene 2

Warsaw/Poland and Russia / July - November 1942

Scene 3

Munich city and university/ January - February 1943

Anke Loewensprung is a multi-disciplinary artist and a writer, working in Oxford and Munich.
Recent work includes:

2005 Gathering of the Living / Ovada / Oxford
2007 Schneewehe 1947 / Snowdrift 1947, Frauen Museum Bonn, Germany
2007 - 2011 Hi no michi / Weg durch das Feuer / Going through Fire / Shigaraki, Japan
2008 - 2012 Atemraum / Breathing Space / University Witten Herdecke, Germany
2013 - 2020 Weisse Rose Research and Book Project / ongoing / Oxford & Munich

The photographs in this booklet are part of the Installation Lighting Matches during Blackout.
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