

Beyond the Forest: Jewish Presence in Eastern Europe 2004-2012

by Loli Kantor

EXHIBITION PROPOSAL

BACKGROUND

Beyond the Forest is a photographic series that represents the fragile renewal of Jewish Life in eastern Europe in the early 21st century.

The project began when Loli Kantor, an Israeli-American photographer, turned a journey to discover the world of her family, most having perished in the Holocaust, into a broader engagement with the daily life of the Jews of eastern Europe today.



Tarnow, Poland 2015

Kantor's photographs tell a story of the reemergence of Jewish culture in rural and urban Poland and Ukraine, as well as the continuing impact of both the Holocaust and the subsequent Soviet regime on the Jewish communities and their identity. As her work progressed, the scope broadened beyond the personal to encompass the universal experiences of Jews living in eastern Europe.

Her images, taken over a span of nearly a decade, use a variety of photographic language to express the absence and the presence of Jewish life there. Kantor visited Jews living in the small villages (*shtetls*) as well as urban communities. She also observed how non-Jews are instrumental in preserving Jewish culture in both traditional and non-traditional ways. By returning to some of the same places again and again over the years, Kantor developed a close relationship with the communities and caretakers, providing her with access that revealed both personal and communal daily life and aspects of religious traditions. The result is this body of work and her recent title

Beyond the Forest: Jewish Presence in Eastern Europe, 2004-2012.



Veronika and Alfred Shreyer, Drohobych, Ukraine, 2007
Palladium Triptych

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHS



Above: Genia, Ukraine, 2005
Silver Gelatin Print

Right: Uzhgorod, Ukrain 2005
Pigment Ink Print

The works are vivid color pigment prints, black and white silver gelatin prints and pigment prints, and small palladium contact prints. This photographic language of color juxtaposed with black and white and palladium prints is itself a dialogue between past and present, allowing a wider look at a people and a culture. Small palladium prints are reminiscent of snapshots -- historical, intimate and they delicately layer the past with the present and read like a family album.

Although this work invokes memory and loss, it also portrays a realistic sense of the present and of survival.



ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Availability

Currently through December 2020

Works

Works available for an intimate setting or expansive exhibition

Color Pigment Prints: framed, 43.2 x 55.8 cm (17 x 22 inches), printed on Hahnemüle Fine art Baryta paper (up to 30).

B&W Gelatin Silver and Pigment Prints: matted and framed, 40.64x50.8 cm, 50.8x60.98 cm (16x20 inches, 20x24 inches) (up to 30).

Palladium Prints: single image size 5.99x9.01 cm (2.36x3.54 inches) on 27.94x38.1 cm (11x15 inches) Rising Artist Dawing Bristol 2-ply velum paper (up to 30).



Left: Art Space 111, Fort Worth, Texas 2012



Portland State University, Portland, Oregon 2015

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

As a host venue for the exhibition, you will have a unique opportunity to engage audiences of all ages in discourse about eastern European Jewish history and Loli's approach to her documentary photographic processes through gallery talks, public lectures, workshops and book signings.

Gallery Talk The artist is available to give talks for adults and a young audience, in organized groups or informal settings.

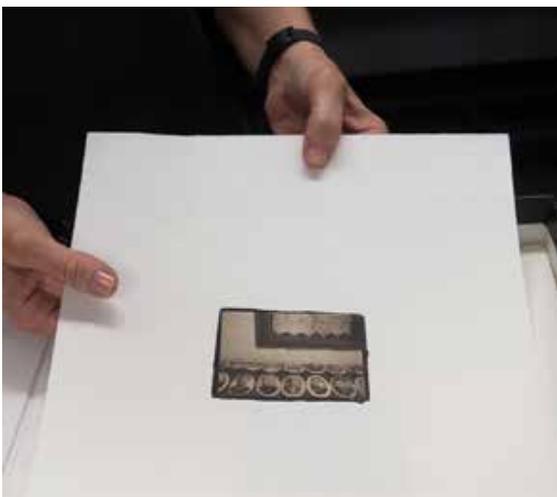
Lectures Universities and community centers can benefit from presentations and in-depth insights from the perspective of an artist and second-generation Holocaust survivor, for professors and students in the liberal arts, history, fine art, as well as Holocaust and Jewish studies.

Workshops

Documentary Photography: Her use of a variety of photographic language to tell a story. Students will learn how to construct a story using more than one photographic medium.

Palladium Printing: Students will gain a basic knowledge how to make palladium prints.

Publishing: The creative process of publishing a photography book.



Tarnow, Poland 2015

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Loli Kantor was born in Paris, France, raised in Tel Aviv, Israel, and has lived in the United States since 1984. Kantor's photography has been exhibited in the United States and internationally in China, Ukraine, Poland, Spain, and Czech Republic. Her lifelong interest in culture and community also inspired works reflecting visual and performing arts. The current project has been nearly a decade in the making. She has received numerous awards, including PhotoLucida's 2010 Critical Mass Top 50; PhotoNOLA 2011 Reviewer's Choice award; and an Award of Excellence at the 2009 Lishui International Photography Festival in Lishui, China. She has been featured in *The New Yorker*, has been interviewed for Public Radio International, National Public Radio and numerous special interest media. Her work is held in museums and private collections internationally. Kantor lives and works in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Kantor matches her subjects with an original and haunting vision and mastery of photographic technique. Palladium prints echo the indelible images of Roman Vishniac.... Kantor's sepia prints of the present are in some sense like ghosts miraculously reborn. Her almost jarring digital color photographs record modest contemporary households, common objects, and even a hint of normal life."

Robert H. Abzug, Director, Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies,

University of Texas at Austin



ABOUT THE PUBLICATION:

[Beyond the Forest: Jewish Presence in Eastern Europe, 2004-2012](#)

University of Texas Press. Introduction by Anda Rottenberg and Afterward by Joseph Skibell. Illustrated essay by the Author. Hardcover, 25 x 26 cm (10.5 x 10 inches), 185 pages with 98 photographic plates in colour and b&w. ISBN 978-0-292-76129-2. Included in the series Exploring Jewish Arts and Culture; series editor Robert H. Abzug, Director, Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies, University of Texas at Austin. <https://utpress.utexas.edu/index.php/books/kanbey>

HOW TO SCHEDULE

To schedule an exhibition, gallery talk, book signing or educational gathering please contact Loli Kantor directly.

Email: loli.kantor@gmail.com

Website: www.lolikantor.com

Phone: +1-817-371-1413

To **purchase books** for an-exhibition related book signing, contact the publisher directly. <https://utpress.utexas.edu/index.php/books/kanbey>

For a **review copy**, please contact the publisher or the author.

For a **digital media information package**: contact Lena Moses-Schmitt, UT Press, +1-512-232-7633.

"Loli Kantor's photographs... are like jewels - richly colored and saturated, multifaceted, masterfully composed."

Alexa Dilworth, Publishing Director,
Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University



Slavek, Lviv 2008
Pigment Ink Print