

EYES | OCHI

IN MEMORIAM ANNA FREUD

In the Showroom Berggasse 19

“These ‘eyes’ speak to the necessity to pause, to reflect, to turn to oneself and look at the world guided by one’s own feeling” – and this is why these “windows to the soul” are at the center of the installation EYES | OCHI, which was created in a small village near the city of Lviv in 2016. There, in a space called “Prostir RaDity” (“Room of Children's Joy”), numerous children find board and shelter during the weeks of summer, which gives them a chance to face up to the traumatic ramifications of the war in Ukraine. Founded in 2015, following the annexation of Crimea and the start of the war in the Donbas, it has become a fixture and a point of reflection. “Prostir RaDity” is supervised by psychotherapists, artists, musicians, philosophers and other to address the external and internal injuries and dangers of war.

An essential therapeutic moment in this is self-exploration: surrounded by nature and relaxing music, the children were asked to close their eyes and to concentrate on their own emotional states – “as though touching their own souls”. Towards the end of the meditation, when they opened their eyes again, their gazes seemed to remain fixed inwards for a while before they slowly returned to the outside world. In these moments of transition from internal to external apperception, their faces were photographed in order to record the expression that is the truest possible reflection of the essence of these children, of their mental states. In a further step, the portrayed children engaged with the images of their eyes, tried to fathom them and added all that was missing, hadn’t become visible or what they hoped for and needed for their future lives on glass sheets.

In the photo installation EYES | OCHI in the Showroom Berggasse 19, we are confronted with a richly layered kaleidoscope of children’s gazes, and with their struggle for a better future. During World War II, Anna Freud, child analyst and youngest daughter of Sigmund Freud, also addressed the question of coping strategies after the experience of war – of how much states of anxiety and particularly the loss of (psychological) parents affect children’s psyches. October 9, 2022, is the 40th anniversary of her death, which is why the Sigmund Freud Museum dedicates the presentation of EYES | OCHI to her memory and to her important work *Young children in war-time: a year’s work in a residential war nursery* (first published in 1942).

Sigm. Freud

MUSEUM

“Prostir RaDity” needs your support!

Just like Anna Freud when she founded her war nurseries in London, psychoanalysts and psychotherapists like Yuliya Vynnytska, Mykola Vynnytskyy, Artem Petrytskyi and Oleksandr Filts in Ukraine today are trying to maintain a place that enables rehabilitation for the youngest victims of acts of war, beyond their everyday, past and present suffering. Therefore, we would also like to ask you to support the project “Prostir RaDity” for the protection of children traumatized by the war in Ukraine with your donation!

All donations will be handed over to the project leaders from the Austrian donations account:

Account: Ukraine Projekt, account holders: K. Günther, E. Trappl

Bank: Österreichische Ärzte und Apotheker Bank AG, Spitalgasse 31, 1090 Wien

IBAN: AT71 1813 0420 0382 1500

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Photo installation

Showroom Berggasse 19

October 9, 2022 until October 15, 2023