

The Photographs

Dana Drake, photographer and photo laboratory specialist, created the photographs in these panels from small snapshots taken over many years of the family of Maria Frank Abrams in Hungary.

In 1944 those pictured in these photographs were deported. In a period between the end of May and the 2nd of July 1944, 500,000 Hungarian Jews were sent to Auschwitz. Only a few survived.

Mrs. Abrams' photographs show the happy times of her close-knit, loving family.

Drake, a 1969 graduate of Brandeis University, moved from Massachusetts to Seattle in 1972, working as a free-lance photographer and co-owner of Panda Lab.

The transformation of these old photographs into the high quality enlarged photos in these panels was done by Drake using high-resolution ink-jet prints, a system trademarked as Piezography B&W.

"What Dana Drake has done", says Mrs. Abrams, "is to lift her family pictures to the level of visual poetry."

Rózsa Vilma

(40" X 33") Casein, Prisma color pencils, high resolution ink-jet prints (Piezography B&W), 2001.

The background of this arrangement of photographs is the handwriting of my aunt Rózsa Vilma (Mrs. Pal Faragó). It was copied off a postcard, greetings sent from a winter vacation only five months before her murder in Auschwitz. The seven photographs carry her life story from childhood to middle age. She is shown with her sons, husband, sister and in the last photograph taken in 1943 with her two nieces, both of whom survived.

Faragó Gabor

(38" X 30") Casein, Prisma color pencils, high resolution ink-jet prints (Piezography B&W), 2002.

The younger son of Rózsa Vilma. He was taken with his parents to Auschwitz in 1944 where he was murdered. The photographs show him from babyhood in the arms of our grandmother, with his parents, his brother and his cousins. Deeply loved by everyone.

Faragó György

(48" X 40") Casein, Prisma color pencils, high resolution ink-jet prints (Piezography B&W), 2002.

The older son of Rózsa Vilma. His story and photographs lead through his short, wonderful life to its tragic end, murdered at age 23.

The handwriting is copied from postcards he wrote in 1944 from a Forced Labor Camp attached to the Hungarian Army in Hungary to our aunt who lived with her gentile nobleman husband in Budapest. (she was not deported.).

The translation of Faragó György postcards:

“The news I get from my parents, alas, is not good. They are to leave Nyiregyhaza on the 4th of June. Where to – I do not know. Dad writes that I should not worry if I do not receive news from them because it is possible that for awhile they won’t be able to write.”

“Last week I wrote you that my own family most likely will stay until the 21st, meanwhile the situation changed and they left Nyiregyhaza, for far away. Dad wrote me a letter, he took leave of me and said ‘goodbye’. I leave it to you to imagine the rush of feeling that enveloped me.”

“From my parents, from aunt Irenke’s family, Lilly and Ivan, alas, I have no news. I know nothing.”

“I am very anxiously awaiting some communications from my parents. I have a strong feeling that I will receive something.”

“My mood is good enough. It would not be right at age 23 to abandon myself to despair; after all, a long life is ahead of me which could still turn out to be good.”

“Of those who were sent away I have uncertain, confusing reports. I have faith, that I will see them in the future.”

Létay Ivan (12" X 30")

Casein, Prisma color pencils, high resolution ink-jet prints (Piezography B&W), 2002.

Létay Ivan, my cousin, only child of converted parents, beloved by all, deported to Auschwitz with his mother Lilly and us. He was murdered July 1, 1944.