

**Anti-fascism Memorial
on Südtiroler Platz
by Heimo Zobernig, 2002**



The Anti-fascism Memorial was unveiled on October 26, 2002, and the area surrounding it was reconfigured to enhance the monument's visibility in 2012.

The City of Salzburg during the Nazi Era

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KULTUR
STADT : SALZBURG

The following text is imprinted on the underside of the top slab:

THE CITY OF SALZBURG REMORSEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE CRIMES OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM WERE COMMITTED HERE TOO AND THAT CITIZENS OF THIS CITY WERE GUILTY OF THEM. THE VICTIMS OF THIS BARBARITY WERE JEWS, THE MENTALLY ILL AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, POLITICAL DISSENTERS, SINTI AND ROMANY, HOMOSEXUALS, ARTISTS, RESISTANCE FIGHTERS, PRISONERS OF WAR AND FORCED LABORERS, AS WELL AS OTHER PERSECUTED GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS.

COMMEMORATING THE EVENTS OF THIS HORRIBLE TIME ALSO NECESSARILY ENTAILS AN OBLIGATION: "NEVER AGAIN." A LIFE OF HUMAN DIGNITY IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, OF TOLERANCE AND THE RULE OF LAW, OF SOLIDARITY AND SUSTAINABILITY. BUT THESE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED; THEY MUST BE VIGILANTLY DEFENDED AGAINST THE DEMONS OF FASCISM THAT CAN ONCE AGAIN BE SEEN FESTERING IN OUR MIDST, AND REASSERTED OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE PAST MEANS MAKING AN ACTIVE COMMITMENT IN THE PRESENT TO OPPOSE ALL FORMS OF FASCISM AND TO SAFEGUARD HUMAN RIGHTS.



Ein Projekt der
STADT : SALZBURG

**Anti-fascist
Admonishment and
Commemoration
in Salzburg**

The Memorial on
Südtiroler Platz



DIE STADT
SALZBURG IM
NATIONAL-
SOZIALISMUS

The Anti-fascism Memorial on Südtiroler Platz calls upon us to respectfully remember all the victims of National Socialism. It is an acknowledgement and, at the same time, an expression of profound remorse that citizens of this city were among those complicit in the Nazis' crimes.

Commemorating the immeasurable suffering inflicted during eight years of National Socialist terror upon those who were deemed undesirable by the twisted delusion of a German *Volksgemeinschaft* [national community] admonishes us to never again permit inhumanity and barbarism to become the watchwords of political deeds! In the words inscribed upon the memorial: a life of human dignity can only be based on the principles of democracy and human rights. These are the values that must guide our political and social endeavors.



Dr. Heinz Schaden
Mayor of the City of Salzburg



Anti-fascism Memorial
on Südtiroler Platz

Train stations are crossroads, nodes of coming and going. Südtiroler Platz adjacent to the railway station resonates with powerful symbolism. During the Nazi era, Wehrkreiskommando XVIII, the armed forces' district command center, was located on the south end of the square; on the north side was a row of barracks for forced laborers. Jews as well as Romany and Sinti were assembled here for shipment to concentration camps. Political prisoners condemned to execution in Munich or Berlin passed through this square; so did those in "protective custody" on their way to Dachau. Not far from here was the Itzling Transit Camp where forced laborers were held pending assignment to the sites of their involuntary servitude. The memorial brings out this character of the square. Heimo Zobernig designed it as a sort of hut – the shelter at a bus stop, perhaps – in grey concrete, devoid of heroic pathos. It consists of a slab embedded in the ground and three pillars supporting a roof slab. Due to the fourth pillar missing on one corner, the memorial lacks static stability. The construction could collapse at any time. Accordingly, society's basic anti-fascist consensus has to be constantly nurtured. The top of one of the three pillars consists of a bronze head – neither man nor woman, neither young nor old; an archetype of human existence and human mentality. The head is what gives the upper slab the support it needs. Engraved into its underside is an inscription. It says the City of Salzburg



Axonometric
rendering of the
Anti-fascism Memorial;
plan drawings
by Architekturbüro
one room

acknowledges "that the crimes of National Socialism were committed here too and that citizens of this city were guilty of them." And it goes on to name the groups of victims. The memorial comes across as modest, reserved. But it is part of this square, set amidst the comings and goings at a place where nothing is stationary or permanent – just as the "principles of democracy and human rights, of tolerance and the rule of law, of solidarity and sustainability" are not to be taken for granted. They demand constant attention and effort. The Anti-fascism Memorial admonishes us to act accordingly, now and in the future.

Erecting an anti-fascist monument was an integral part of a competition staged in the mid-1980s to select a design for reconfiguring the entire train station plaza. The architects, Schürmann & Partner, situated the memorial amongst the trees on the western edge of the square, directly opposite the train station's main entrance. In late 1999, a measure authorizing construction of the memorial finally passed the City Council with a narrow majority. In 2001, the city issued an international call for entries to a design competition in which the jury ultimately selected Heimo Zobernig's project. In 2002, 57 years after liberation from National Socialism, the memorial was dedicated in a ceremony attended by representatives of victims' associations. In 2012, the area around the memorial was reconfigured. Spotlights now accentuate its presence.



Heimo Zobernig

Ever since the 1980s, the City of Salzburg had been planning to erect an anti-fascism memorial on the square in front of its main railway station as a means of acknowledging what was done here. In 2001, the city issued a worldwide call for entries to a design competition. In April 2002, the jury selected the project submitted by Heimo Zobernig. His concept is a construction at the nexus of architecture and sculpture. The inscription – in capital letters cut into the underside of the top slab – is a slightly modified version of the text provided to the design competition entrants, which had been composed by members of the Anti-fascism Committee that was founded after the end of the war.

Heimo Zobernig was born in 1958 in Mauthen in the Province of Carinthia. He studied in Vienna at the Academy of Fine Arts and the University of Applied Arts from 1977 to 1983. He has been a professor at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna since 2000. In 2010, he was the recipient of the Friedrich Kiesler Prize for Architecture and Art.

Exhibitions:
documenta, Kassel, 1992, 1997; Skulptur Projekte Münster, 1997; MUMOK, Vienna, 2002; Tate St. Ives, 2008; Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, 2009; CAPC, Bordeaux, 2009; Palacio de Velázquez, Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid, 2012; Kunsthaus Graz, 2013; Austrian Pavilion at the 56th Biennale di Venezia, 2015.