

Identity and Peace: A Photographic Journey through Franzensfeste Fortress

Project Goal: This project aims to guide students in exploring their own identity and ideas of peace through a photographic journey inspired by the artistic contributions of the Women's Festivals at Franzensfeste Fortress. The students should be inspired to reflect on and creatively express their individual perspectives on identity and peace.

Tasks:

1. Research and Inspiration:

- Visit the exhibition of the Frauenfeste Identity.
- Read the texts about the works of the following artists: Samira Mosca, Elisabeth Oberrauch, Astrid Gamper, Valentina Pelykh, Julia Prugger, Mirjam Falkensteiner, and Patrizia Pfeifer, studying their artistic expression.
- Draw inspiration from their work as well as from the atmosphere of the fortress.

2. Self-reflection and Identity Exploration:

- Reflect on your own identity, your background, your values, and your visions for a peaceful world.
- Contemplate how your personal identity is connected to your ideas of peace and harmony.

3. Photographic Implementation:

- Explore Franzensfeste Fortress and draw inspiration from its atmosphere.
- Photograph elements of the fortress that reflect your own identity and your ideas of peace, such as architectural details, landscapes, symbols, or people.
- Experiment with different photographic techniques and styles to best express your personal feelings and thoughts.

4. Reflection and Interpretation:

- Select the best three photos from your collection and reflect on their significance in relation to your own identity and your ideas of peace.
- Write short descriptions for each selected photo, explaining how it reflects your personal thoughts and emotions and its connection to the artistic contribution of the artist Samira Mosca, Elisabeth Oberrauch, Astrid Gamper, Valentina Pelykh, Julia Prugger, Mirjam Falkensteiner, and Patrizia Pfeifer
- Present your photos and thoughts to the group.

Artist: Samira Mosca

In Interspace - Chapter 3, Samira Mosca attempts to explore the connection between body and psyche through her artistic process and personal experiences. The focus is on the transformations of the body, especially those caused by eating disorders. For the artist, visual perception is closely linked to neurological, psychological, and socio-cultural factors. Samira Mosca expresses these themes through white ceramic sculptures of altered, vanished, barely perceptible body parts that become empty spaces filled with deforming thoughts. These sculptures are given a new function. They become “vases” filled with mistletoe, a parasitic plant that deprives trees, on which it grows, of nourishment - just as thoughts about eating disorders do for those affected.

Group: Jakob, Sofia, Henrieta



Author: Sofia

This picture shows that under the white wall lies something special. At first glance, no one can see who we are. There is something interesting and pretty in everyone. The numbers are like a secret message. Through the painting, the artist maybe wanted to tell us something.



Author: Henrieta

In this picture we can see the ceiling in the church. We have chosen this picture because the color blue displays peace, harmony, and communication. This ceiling is the opposite of Samira Mosca's work.

Artist: Julia Prugger

In Gang und Raum 3 zwischen dem 6. April und 16. Juni (Corridor and Room between 6 April and 16 June), Julia Prugger explored the identity of visitors to the fortress. The artist laid out painted zinc plates in various passageways. Walking and driving on these plates caused the paint to come off and leave traces. The artist transferred these traces onto lengths of fabric soaked in salt sulphate by placing the fabric on the panels.

As the oxidation process began, the resulting material was deposited as a pattern on the fabric base. Depending on the drying process, images were created in this way that sometimes more, sometimes less, reveal the traces of the visitors and symbolically preserve their presence.

Group: Denis, Anne-Claire, Karolina



Author - Denis Komžík

Everywhere we go we leave a small imprint of ourselves. In other words, we leave a small part of our identity because a small part of ourselves always stays in places where we were. In parks, for example, you can see dirt paths as shortcuts because some people were lazy and that says something about their identity.



Author: Karolina Vavrova

In this picture you can see a path that is very stained. Many people have walked on this path and as they were walking, they left something of their identity - a part of their life which changed the path. Just like people in our life, they come and go, and they always change something in us.



Author: Anne-Claire

This is a picture of a wall that we saw in this Castle. We instantly thought of our artist Julia Prugger. This piece of wall reminded us very much of her work.

The wall was used by people over centuries. They left their traces, so a part of them will forever be there.

Similarly, a part of the identity of hundreds of people is marked and left there as we are leaving a part of our identity every day, wherever we go.

Artist: Elisabeth Oberrauch

Elisabeth Oberrauch addresses the identity of the historic fortress walls in her works. The artist repeatedly went in search of special traces on the walls and made studies. She transferred writings, drawings, and paintings onto her sketch paper. The many layers, some of which are only preserved in fragments, conceal the fortress's history and stories. In the painting process, the artist attempted to transfer these onto the canvas using egg tempera, so that the individual pictures look like imprints of individual parts of the fortress wall.

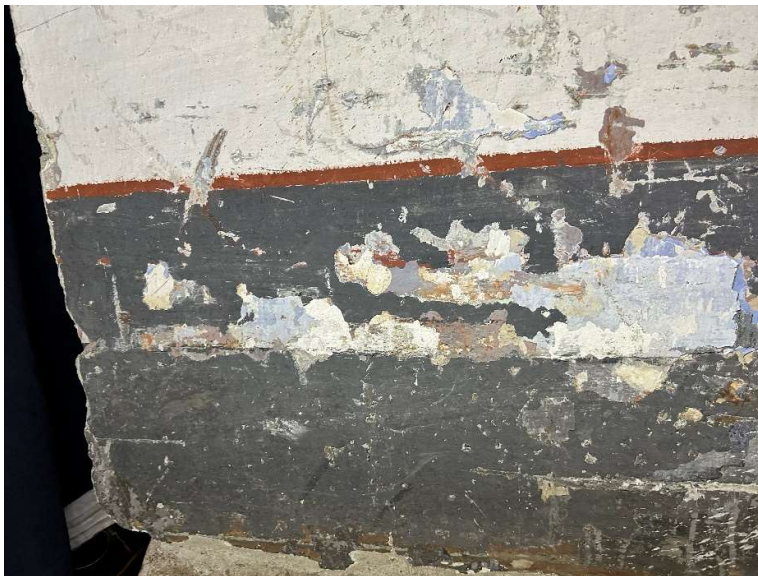
Group: Isabel, Anneke, Nela Sofia



We have chosen this picture because it shows how a person can change over time. The wall has different colors that represent different times in your life that shape your identity. The darker spots at the top represent difficult times; but the green flowers show growth and happiness. the blue area symbolizes inner peace and harmony which come with growth. All these things shape your identity.



The flowers represent something beautiful that can grow and change over time. They also could bring us hope that not everything will be the same and things are going to get better. Your beliefs and personality change over time, just like the pictures on the walls over the years, because they get older just like us.



In this picture you can see a wall with different colours and layers. We have chosen this picture because it represents the different layers a person has. The wall has a long history behind it that shapes its personality. The lighter spots in the middle show happiness and good times, while the dark layer on the outside represents worse times. Both of these aspects are significant to form a person's personality. Therefore, the layers stand for different personality traits. For us, that shapes identity.

Artist: Astrid Gamper

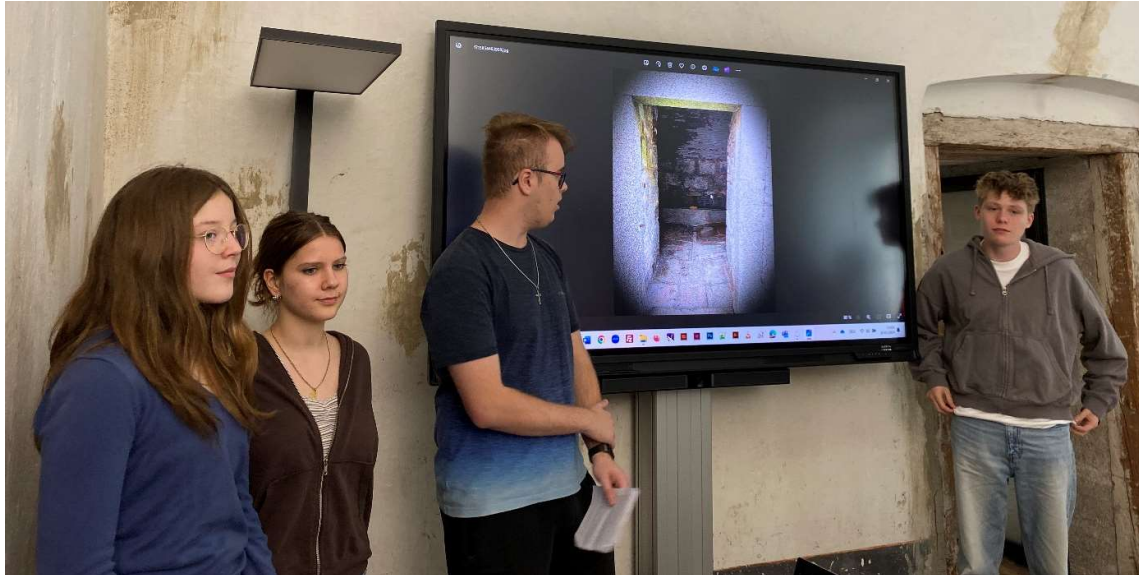
Astrid Gamper's fabric sculpture floats in space. Layer after layer hangs on top of each other, with traces of the process visible through the delicate silk. Printed elements and seams condense into scars and wafer-thin, sensitive areas reveal what lies beneath. Between the soft folds of the organza, individual words and fragments of text appear like fading memories. One layer has come loose and lies on the floor, an empty shell of a body, flaking and abandoned. Everything we experience - our experiences, thoughts and feelings - is inscribed in our skin and soul. Identity, which is not always tangible, can be surmised in the transparent fabric.

Group: Michael, Linda, Valentina, Jonah



Artist: Valentina Pelykh

Valentyna Pelykh comes from Ukraine and has been living in Vipiteno for two years. The sunflower is one of Ukraine's national symbols. It always turns towards the sun, just as a person turns towards light, truth, and justice. The artist's series "Schwarze Sonnenblumen" (Black sunflowers) symbolizes grief over the many victims that the war has already claimed. She writes that she was inspired by the works of Anselm Kiefer, who depicted the tragedy of the Holocaust with his black sunflowers. Valentyna Pelykh applied several layers to the canvas, repeating this process again and again. Her aim was to search for her own identity as an artist.



Group: Matt, Theodor, Marie und Sahra



1. The Slavic Net: We tried to show, how Ukrainian civilians are trapped in their own homeland, unable to reach the light. The net-war, is leaving them hopeless, with only two options: Stay and fight, or leave and live.



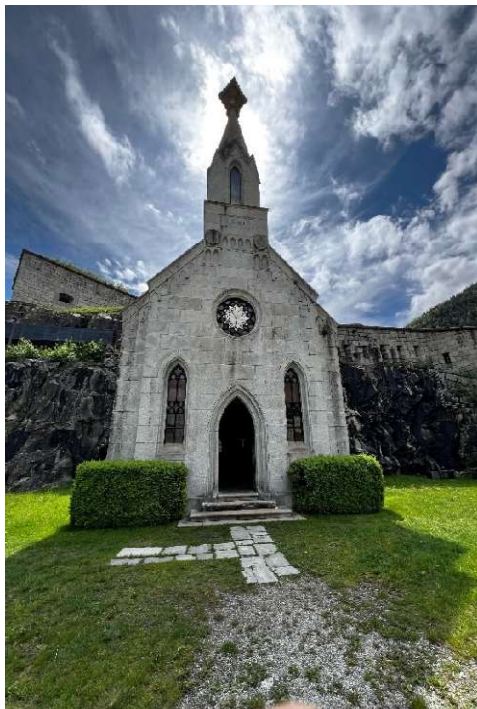
2. Shadow of Russia: The shadow resembling a man holding a gun that is pointed to the head of a woman, symbolises Russia, holding the hopeless civilians hostage, while being their merciless judges and executioners.



3. Prison of the lonely: the flowers in a dark room resemble the inhumane conditions Ukrainian civilians live in, not knowing when their very own homes may be bombarded by Russia at any moment.

Artist: Rina Treml

F*flags by Rina Treml is an installation of flags and photographs. Flags generally stand for a community, symbolize values and ideals, mark and send out a clear message. Rina Treml's flags represent women whose fabrics were transformed into F*flags and whose initials she applied to the flag heads. By doing this, she places women at the center of her artistic exploration and symbolically transfers their stories and female identity to the flags she has sewn. The photographs, taken with an instant camera, show people in action with these very flags. The artist's main aim is to inspire reflection on gender roles and the associated gaps in historiography.



Group: Sophia May, Sofia und Natalia

We have chosen a picture of a church to represent the message of equality. We decided on this based on the fact that everyone in church is equal and welcome to believe in whatever they want. People are not judged based on their gender, race or looks. Religion also shapes you as a person. It makes your identity and everyday life unique in your own way.



represent people because they live in harmony, so we should also live like these flowers and accept that everyone is unique.

We have chosen a picture of flowers to represent the message of equality. We decided on this based on the fact that every flower, even if it looks different from the outside, is equal to the others. The flowers should

Artist: Mirjam Falkensteiner and Patrizia Pfeifer

In their project 5° piano, Patrizia Pfeifer and Mirjam Falkensteiner explore the central question of how the loss of a living space affects our identity.

Based on their research and an adapted story by Ilse Aichinger, the two artists have translated the living space and the moment of loss of living space as a process into a visual language that can be seen in the video “Get out of my House – Umsprung in ihr Anderess”.

In the work I think I am the real one, a body is portrayed while searching for its place in endless walking, without having a place to retreat to rest.

The photographs “They grabbed a bird and broke its wings” tell a story of fragility and defencelessness in an outdoor space. At a closer look, traces of destruction are visibly etched into the surrounding walls of a once chosen abode.

Group: Albrecht, Valerie, Jozef



We decided to talk about peace and the central question of how the loss of a living space affects our identity. We think that peace is connected to nature. For this reason, we have decided to take a photo of nature, or maybe better, of some hills. Our identity is affected like nature is. Every day, every moment something changes in nature, this might be the same for people.

Another reason why we have chosen to photograph nature is that nature does not have an owner like a house or a car, so you can't lose it. Nature is for everyone, and that is beautiful, but we have to think about how we treat nature.

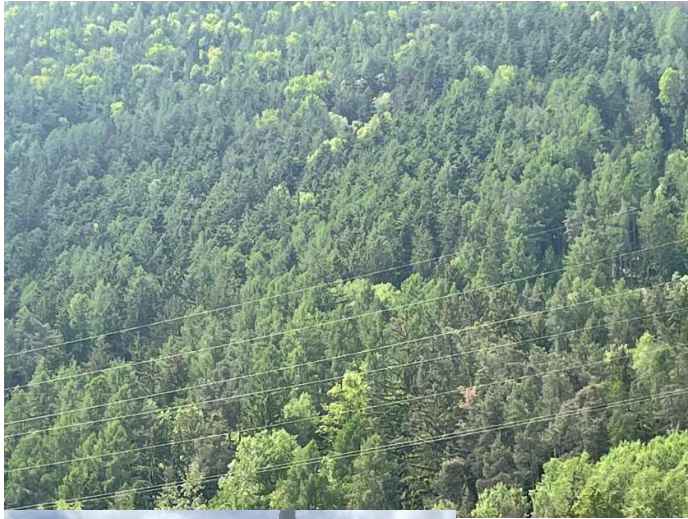


Image 1 (forest):

The image reflects the alienation that a person experiences without a home. Although the forest is filled with trees, it still seems empty and monotonous, feelings that are also evoked in a person who has lost their home.

It represents the complete opposite of an inhabited area and thus, once again, reflects loneliness.



Image 2 (church):

This image shows the hope that a person, who has lost their home, has. God always keeps his arms open and even people without a home often experience help here.

The chapel in the picture represents the openness of god because he has always his arms open for you. If you have lost your home or identity, you can always come to him for help or a home. You can also sleep in churches or chapels for a short time, when you need it. We wanted to show something like an opportunity for the ones who need help or a home and for us, that is represented by the chapel.



Image 3 (car):

A person who has made their car their home. Despite this seemingly safe place to stay, the home seems incomplete. The stone block in front of it emphasises the limitations and rounds off the picture.