F6 Roma Rights Activist: Karl Stojka

After the Second World War, Karl Stojka became a successful businessman in Austria. In his spare time he started to paint pictures of his experiences in the Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Flossenbürg concentration camps. He was an active member of the Roma Rights movement, fighting for equal rights for the European Roma, for their official recognition as an ethnic group, and for compensation for the surviving Roma and Sinti for the wrong done to them during the Holocaust.



1950 1991

1990

Did you know

... that in recognition of his long years of committed work, Karl Stojka was granted an audience by Pope John Paul II, who called him an “ambassador of the Roma people”?

Your task

Art is one of many ways of remembering. Find other artists whose works express their memories of the Holocaust. Present an example and explain your choice. Is there a Roma or Sinti organisation in your country? What does it do?

About the photo

Scene from Lackenbach Camp in Burgenland painted by Karl Stojka in 1990. The oil painting is now privately owned. Documentation Centre of Austrian Roma, Vienna, Austria.

https://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/f