

## Robin Levy

Meaningful human connection is fundamental to my artist practice. To accomplish this I create intimate durational explorations that push towards a better understanding of our complicated world. In 2012, an innocent childhood memory spanning seven decades, provided by my mother, became the perfect vehicle for this oeuvre: “strolling with Tata (her father) down the wide avenue on Sundays getting balloons and ice cream.” In lieu of taking Mom on a trafficked victim tour, I introduced Anne Skorecki Levy and a moment from her past to the present-day Łódź community. Concerned about surprising Mom with such a provocative gesture as soon as her feet hit the ground in her birth city, (much to my relief) Mom instantly became Nusia— muscle memory holding onto her balloon tightly, she seized the opportunity to reclaim and share her cherished remnant of childhood.

Handing out several-hundred white balloons imprinted with her black and white photograph at the age of four drew sustained attention. Many people asked for a balloon and then about the image, prompting several moments of deep human connection— perfect strangers exchanging their rarely shared pre-war and wartime stories. Unfortunately, Mom will not attend Bar-David’s opening. It remains to be seen if her physical presence is required to breathe life, joy and meaningful connection into Nusia or is it possible to channel the essence of this memory without its original human source.

Bar-David Museum’s In Search of Lost Memory is much more than the continuation of Memory Project. The grassroots commemoration in Łódź, Poland, was a modest social experiment that traveled to New Orleans, USA. Both versions laid the successful foundation for today’s broader meditation on memory. Israeli Curator Sorin Heller and Museum Director Avi Ifergan gathered an extraordinary cohort of artists from disparate historic places, each bringing into dialog their reality and unique relationship to communities laden with myriad inequities. Unlike our 2012 commemoration, In Search of Lost Memory is a survey course on tangibles produced by willful blindness to systemic racism and biases.

I am eternally grateful for the patience and trust by the many patrons of In Search of Lost Memory who also believe in bringing art and community together over complex themes. Enormous thanks to Sorin Heller, Avi Ifergan and Bar-David, and deepest appreciation to each participating artist for speaking truth to power.

In Search Of Lost Memory makes the invisible visible, building resilience through communication between generations. Ancestral healing loosens trauma's grip. This brings me comfort and hope.  
PEACE- robin