



“What do we do now with this knowledge?” by Alexia Weiss in *WINA*, September 2024

“Was machen wir jetzt mit dem Wissen?”

The artist Dwora Fried illustrates her family history in the form of "memory boxes". In these assemblages of painted pictures, photos, toys from the 1940s and 1950s and things that she found in her parents' house or at flea markets, she illustrates above all the feeling of alienation.

In one of the "memory boxes" now on display at the JMW (Jewish Museum of Vienna), two naked baby dolls hang on the wall like hunting trophies. Fried, who briefly presented her work during the press tour of the exhibition, said that her mother could not feed her as a baby because every baby cry reminded her of the crying of babies that had been thrown out of the window by the Nazis.

How would she describe her relationship with her mother today? She did not talk about the Holocaust and her two daughters - Dwora Fried and her sister - did not dare to ask questions for fear that she would "drop dead". They knew that their mother had survived the Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps. But they didn't dare talk about it - quite the opposite to their granddaughters. They asked - and received answers from their grandmother.