

The 70273 Project



BACKGROUND INFO

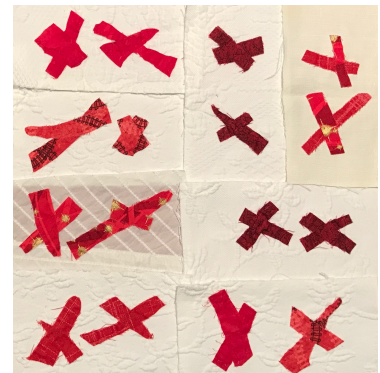
Between January 1940 and August 1941, 70,273 physically and mentally disabled people of all ages were murdered by the Nazis. Without ever laying eyes on the disabled person they were evaluating, the assessing doctors read the medical files and, if from the words on the page, the person was deemed “unfit” or an “economic burden on society” or “a useless eater”, a red X was placed at the bottom of the form. Three doctors read each medical file, and when two of them made a red X on the page, the disabled person’s fate was sealed.

We can’t unring this bell of history, but we can make sure that these victims are remembered. To commemorate these 70,273 voiceless, powerless people who were so callously and casually murdered, Jeanne Hewell-Chambers is gathering 70,273 quilt blocks of white fabric (representing innocence and the paper the doctors read), each bearing two red X’s (representing one person and the death sentence). These blocks will then be stitched together with blocks from around the world to make quilts - perhaps as many as 1200 of them - that will travel to every corner of the world, commemorating the disabled people who died, celebrating those with special needs who live among us today, and educating all who will listen about this atrocity known as Aktion T4 and about the often underestimated goodness and abilities of those with special needs.

QUILT BLOCKS

Guidelines are few and important:

- ~ Block bases are white fabric (representing the paper of the medical records read by the assessing physicians to make their evaluation) cut in one of these three sizes: 3.5" x 6.5" (9 cm x 16.5cm) or 6.5" x 9.5" (16.5 cm x 24.2 cm) or 9.5" x 12.5" (24.x cm x 31.8 cm).
- ~ Two red X’s (to represent the death sentence) are placed on the base.
- ~ A Provenance Form that can be downloaded from the web site must be completed, signed, and sent with the blocks.



THE FOUNDER

Jeanne Hewell-Chambers was stitching the drawings of her 57 year old mentally disabled sister-in-love when the idea of The 70273 Project came and whispered itself to her. Though she usually gives her big, fat, crazy ideas to some fictional woman and writes a story about them, this time Jeanne decided to roll up her sleeves and live this idea into existence, and oh what a grand decision that has proven to be.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

- ~ Make blocks. Each block commemorates one of the 70,273 victims.
- ~ Donate. Financial donations help us ship blocks and quilts around the world; purchase insurance, provide storage, buy office supplies; pay annual fees; and a whole lot more.
- ~ Tell others. Let us know of periodicals, newspapers, podcasts, bloggers, or any group or organization who might be interested in publishing information about The 70273 Project.

For more information, visit www.JeanneHewellChambers.com