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Media Information, May 2025

Where Have All The Flowers Gone ...

80 Years After The War—Photographs by Roger Cremers

Location	Jewish Museum Vienna, Museum Judenplatz Judenplatz 8, 1010 Vienna
Date	May 8, 2025, to January 18, 2026
Opening	May 7, 2025, 7 p.m.
Press conference	May 7, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
Opening hours	Jewish Museum Vienna, Museum Judenplatz Sunday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (summer), 2 p.m. (winter)
Press photos	https://www.jmw.at/presse

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Where Have All The Flowers Gone ...

“We can see Roger Cremers’ photographs as an ambivalent European map of memory, commemoration, and suppression of the atrocities of the Shoah and World War II. They challenge us to think about the future of memory.”

Adina Seeger
Curator, Jewish Museum Vienna

“Cremers has a remarkable talent for perceiving seemingly mundane but actually absurd constellations, actions, and interventions that reveal larger connections within the confines of a limited environment.”

Andrea Winklbauer
Curator, Jewish Museum Vienna

Eighty years after the war

To commemorate the end of the war and the liberation from the Nazi regime eighty years ago, the Jewish Museum Vienna is presenting a photo exhibition entitled *Where Have All The Flowers Gone ...* at Museum Judenplatz. It examines the European culture of memory and the traces left by the Shoah and World War II in landscapes, societies, and today's collective memory. Eight decades after the end of the war, reflecting on the past and its effects is more relevant than ever.

A photographic take on memory

Since 2008, Dutch photographer Roger Cremers has been documenting historically contaminated landscapes, former battlegrounds, and memorials across Europe—places of memory where World War II and the Shoah have left their mark in different ways. He explores how postwar societies deal with the legacy of these catastrophes in the context of remembrance, everyday life, tourism, and political instrumentalization. His pictures raise questions about the impact of these sites and reflect the ambivalent attitude of today's societies towards them. Upon closer inspection, they reveal a subtle ambiguity. The exhibition focuses particularly on perceptions of the Shoah today. In 2024, Cremers also took photographs on behalf of the Jewish Museum Vienna of the concentration camp memorials in Mauthausen, Gusen, and Melk, the euthanasia memorial at Hartheim Castle, and several locations in Vienna. These new photos complement the existing collection and offer an Austrian perspective on the culture of remembrance – and suppression.

What remains? The question of remembrance

The exhibition title *Where Have All The Flowers Gone ...* is taken from an antiwar song written by Pete Seeger in 1955. The German version, *Sag mir, wo die Blumen sind ...* was made well-known by Marlene Dietrich and Hildegard Knef. The two central questions—what happened, and will we ever learn—serve as a leitmotif of the exhibition. What does commemoration signify eighty years after the end of the war? What responsibility do we bear today—at a time when antisemitism, conspiracy theories, alternative facts, and authoritarian thinking are once again on the rise?

Auschwitz—memorial or photo opportunity?

Cremers' photographs not only show how we engage with the past but also reveal how our attitudes are shaped by the present. He documents visitors taking photos in Auschwitz-Birkenau, reenactments in historical uniforms, neo-Nazis at the Ulrichsberg gathering, or a fast-food restaurant located at a former Nazi site.

These observations raise questions: What are people looking for at places like Auschwitz, Sobibor, or Mauthausen? And what do they find there? How do we remember? What do we suppress? And what is the future of memory?

Through the exhibition *Where Have All The Flowers Gone ...*, the Jewish Museum Vienna confronts an often uncomfortable reality: Memory changes and is changeable. It is a contested political field. Roger Cremers' photographs invite us to look closely at memories of traumatic events and to become more aware of what our attitude toward them reveals about today's realities.

About Roger Cremers

Roger Cremers (b. 1972) is a Dutch photographer renowned for his compelling work on the European culture of memory. He studied at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague and has been working as a freelance photographer since 1998, with his images appearing in *NRC Handelsblad*, *Der Spiegel*, *The Guardian*, *El País*, and other media outlets.

Coming from a coal-mining family in Bingelrade, Cremers has a strong historical and social focus, highlighting the tension between the dark chapters of the past and how they are remembered today. Irony is never far away. In 2009, he won a World Press Photo Award for his reportage on tourists in Auschwitz.

Cremers lives in Amsterdam, and his works are exhibited worldwide.

Curators	Adina Seeger & Andrea Winklbauer (Jewish Museum Vienna)
Exhibition design	Fuhrer, Vienna
Catalogue design	Fuhrer, Vienna
Exhibition organization	Claudia Oriold
Catalogue	Adina Seeger, Andrea Winklbauer, eds., <i>Sag mir, wo die Blumen sind ... 80 Jahre nach dem Krieg – Fotografien von Roger Cremers / Where Have All The Flowers Gone ... 80 Years After The War—</i>

Photographs by Roger Cremers, with an essay by Mirjam Zadoff, published by the Jewish Museum Vienna, Vienna 2025 (148 p., soft cover, €27.90 ISBN: 978-3-903419-14-8)

Admission

The ticket is valid for both Jewish Museum Vienna sites, Museum Judenplatz and Dorotheergasse.

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Photo and press material for current exhibitions can be found on the Jewish Museum Vienna website, www.jmw.at/presse

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Die Presse

