

Power of Personal
Stories in
Confronting Oblivion



Remembering Internment: Le Fraschette Camp and the Politics of Memory



Dunja Knabe

Study visit / workshop 2025

About the project

The project „Power of Personal Stories in Confronting Oblivion” aims to strengthen the practices of remembrance of the Holocaust and other genocides committed during WWII, in Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, and other countries of the European Union.

In this sense, the year 2025 has been particularly important, as it marked the eightieth anniversary of the end of WWII, the liberation of different concentration camps and other sites of internment, as well as the end of Fascist and Nazi occupation in many European cities.

Activities organised in the context of the project aimed at combating the denial and distortion of the Holocaust and other WWII genocides, countering the distortion and trivialization of historical facts. This was achieved by involving young people in active learning, contacting policymakers and relevant stakeholders, and creating new materials and methods based on personal stories and biographies of time-witnesses, victims, and survivors that can be used in formal and non-formal education.

The project is funded by the European Union through the programme CERV.

For more information about the project, you can access: [Power of Personal Stories in Confronting Oblivion - Kultura sjećanja](#)

The history of the camp

The Le Fraschette camp officially began operating in October 1942. The first deportees were Anglo-Maltese civilians from Libya, who were accused of being enemies of the Fascist state and spies for the British government.

By the end of the same month, however, the first of many deportations of civilians from Croatia and Slovenia had already begun. They were transferred from other internment sites such as Gonars, Rab, and Molat, having been accused of supporting the resistance movement opposing Fascist rule in the occupied territories. Mostly women and elderly people, they faced severe hardship because of cold, hunger, and the general lack of basic necessities.

After the end of the war, the camp was rebuilt and used for the internment of “undesirable foreigners”: people who did not have the right to return to their countries, including war criminals, spies, saboteurs, and various collaborators of the Nazi and Fascist regimes.

At the same time, Le Fraschette also became a refugee centre for Istrian and Dalmatian exiles, as well as for individuals from countries within the Soviet Union, who had been expelled for opposing the communist regime.

Finally, in an intersection with the final stage of colonialism, in the 1960s, the camp was used as a “Refugee collection centre”. It hosted Italians fleeing from various African countries, including Tunisia, Libya and Egypt.

Today, the camp remains abandoned and largely absent from public memory and remembrance practices both in Italy and across Europe.

For this reason, through the study visit and this publication, participants aimed to reconstruct and interpret this complex legacy, to critically reflect on memory and heritage through photography, and to contribute to greater visibility and recognition of the camp at both local and international levels.

Sources:

The Boundaries of Humanity

Campo Le Fraschette |

I CAMPI FASCISTI - Dalle guerre in Africa alla Repubblica di Salò



Veduta parziale del Campo delle Fraschette

https://www.campifascisti.it/scheda_img_full.php?id_img=203 - photo from the archive
Topografia per la storia

The study visit and photographic workshop

The photographs included in this publication were taken by participants in the study visit and photographic workshop “Remembering Internment: Le Fraschette Camp and the Politics of Memory”, held from 17 to 20 September 2025 in Rome, Italy.

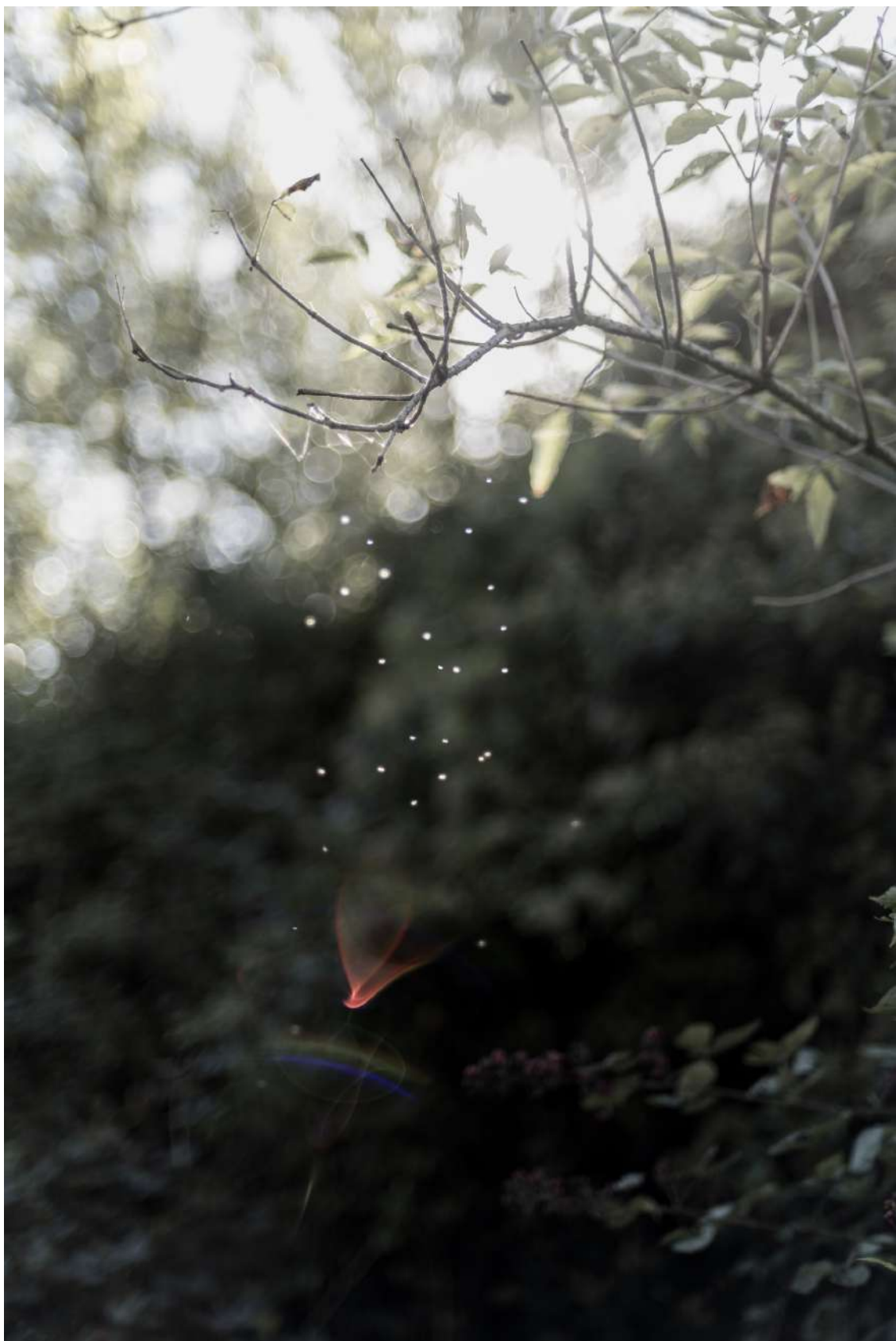
The study visit involved around 25 young people from across Europe and aimed to explore the history and memory of the Le Fraschette internment camp and its complex legacy as one of Italy’s largest Fascist-era camps, as well as its postwar role as a Displaced Persons Centre.

The participants were supported throughout the process by photographers and educators Sandra Vitaljić, Saša Kralj, and Thomas Porena.



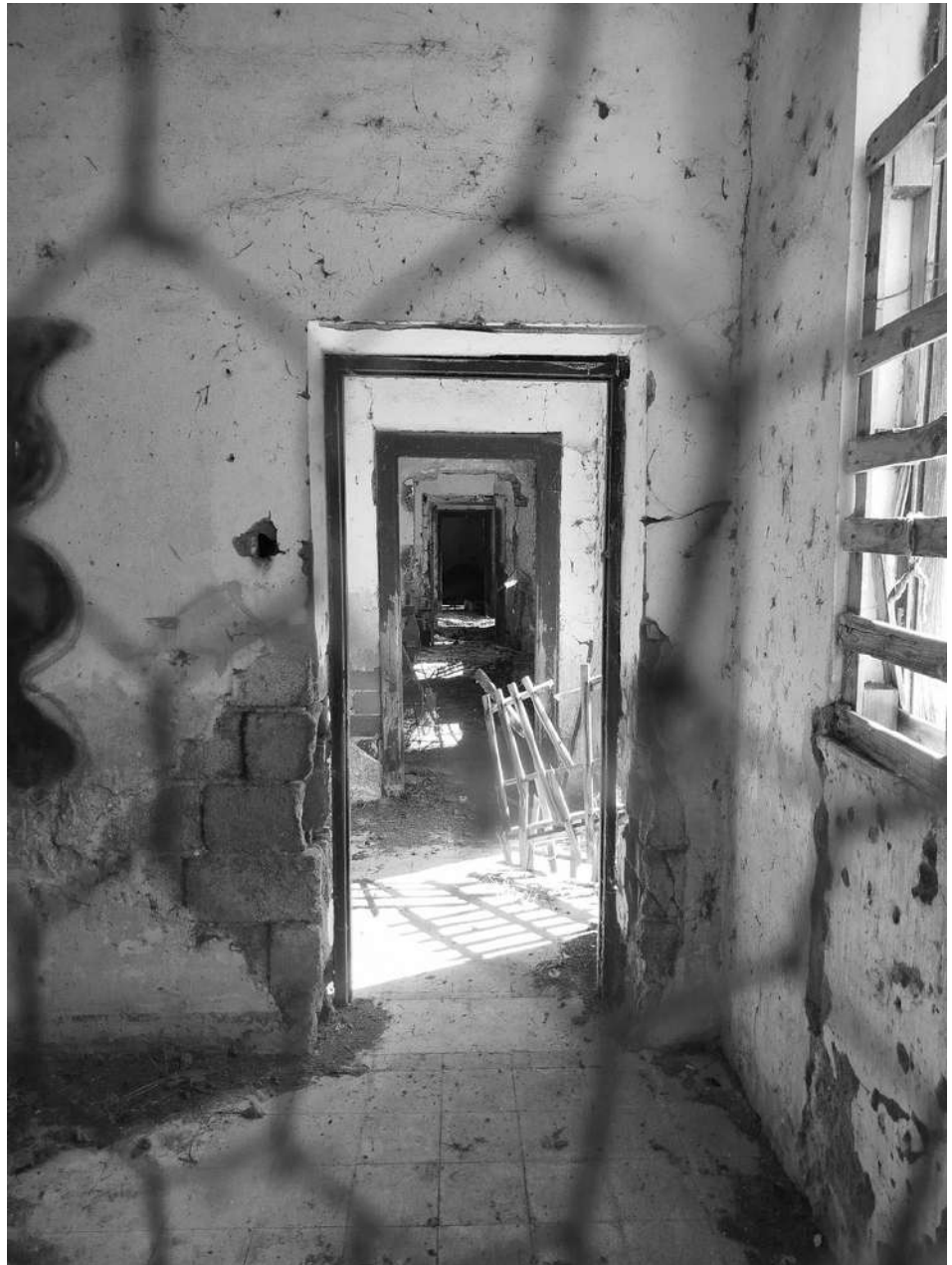
Veduta parziale del Campo delle Fraschette





Niside Panebianco



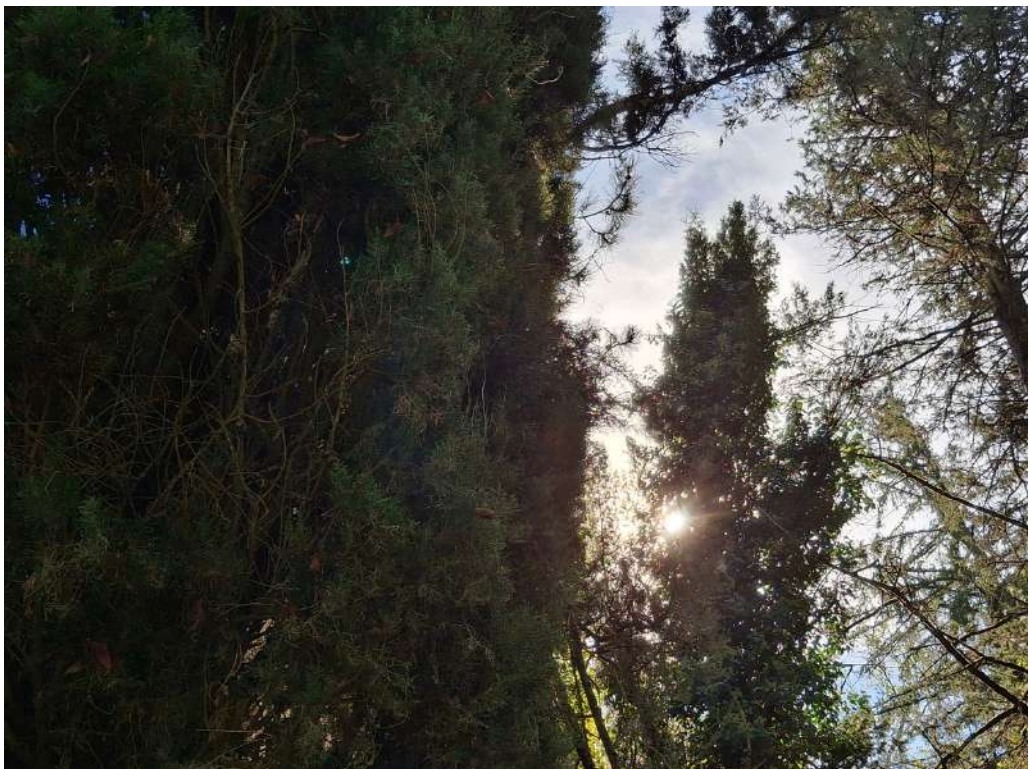


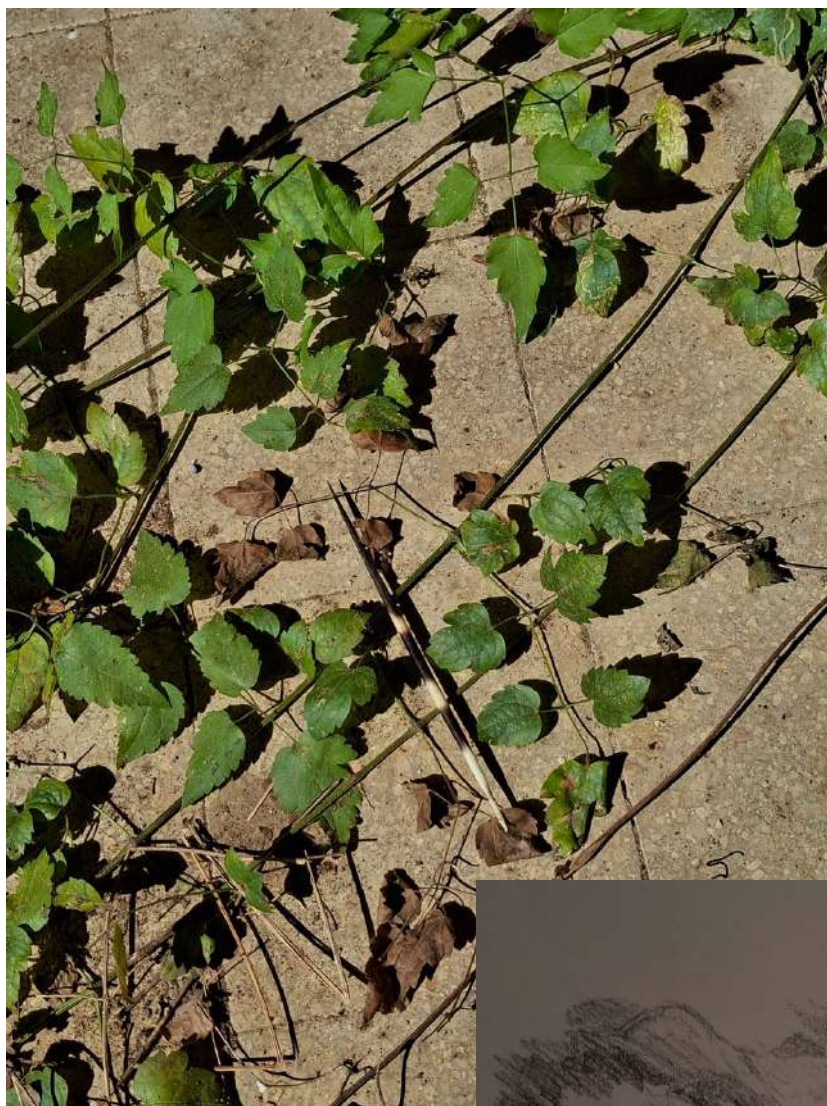
Ruben Prstec



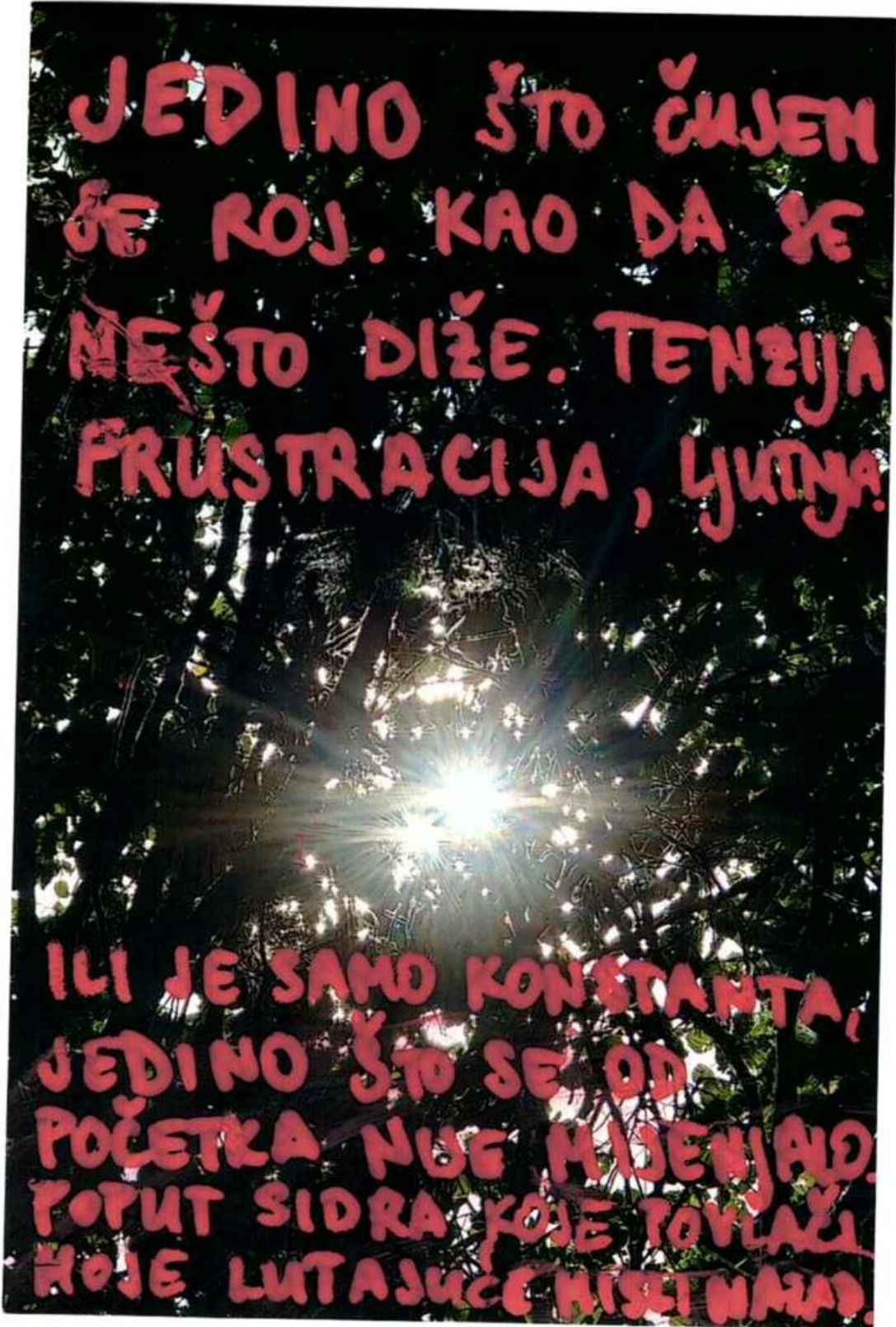


Sarah-Rose Antoun



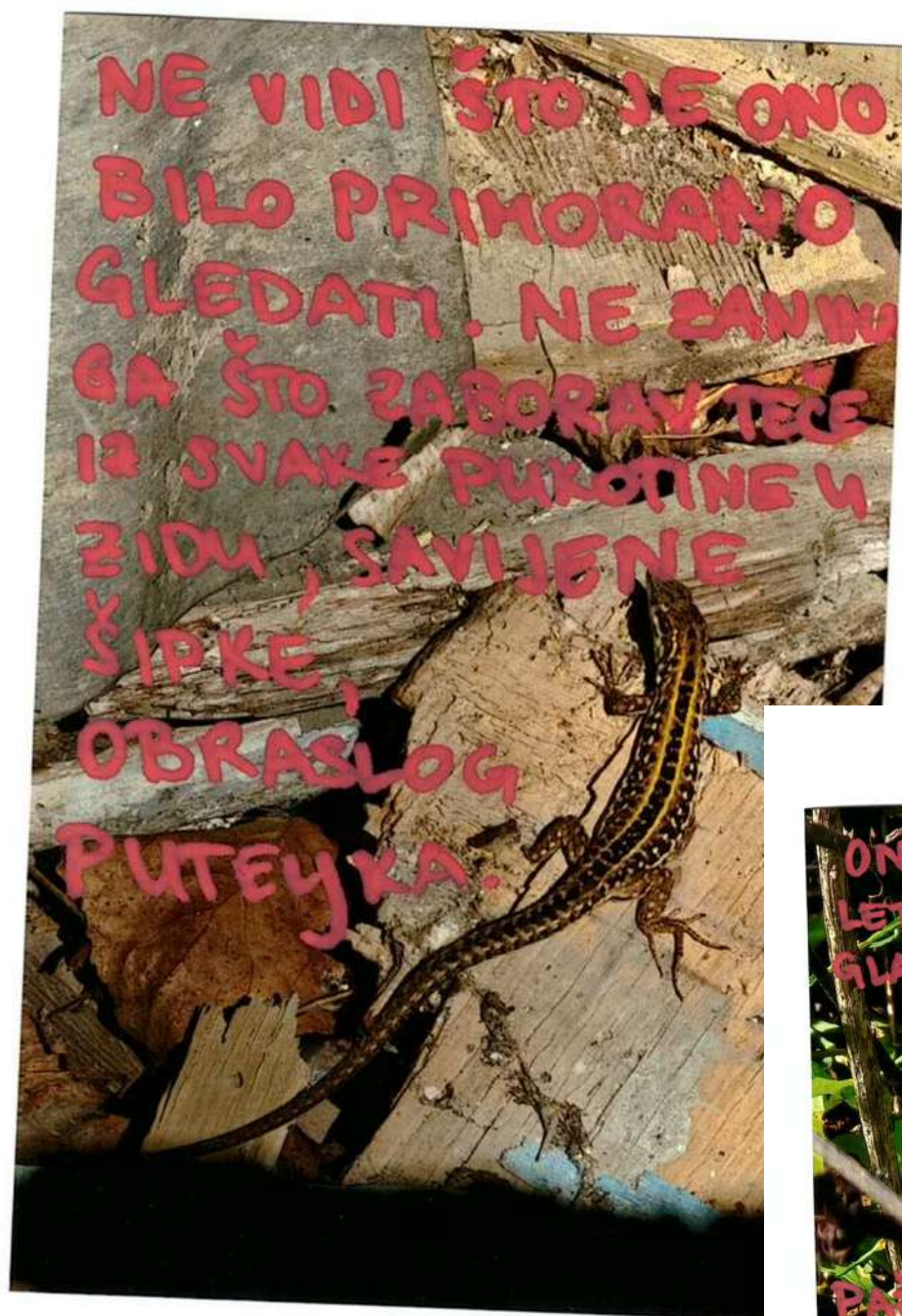


Nikolina Gmaz



JEDINO ŠTO ČUJEM
JE ROJ. KAO DA SE
NEŠTO DIŽE. TENZIJA
FRUSTRACIJA, LJUTNJA!

ILI JE SAMO KONSTANTA,
JEDINO ŠTO SE OD
POČETKA NIGDE MENJALO.
POPUT SIDRA KOJE TOVLAČI
HOJE LUTAJUĆE NISU NAZAD.



Ida Klemenčić





Erica Picco





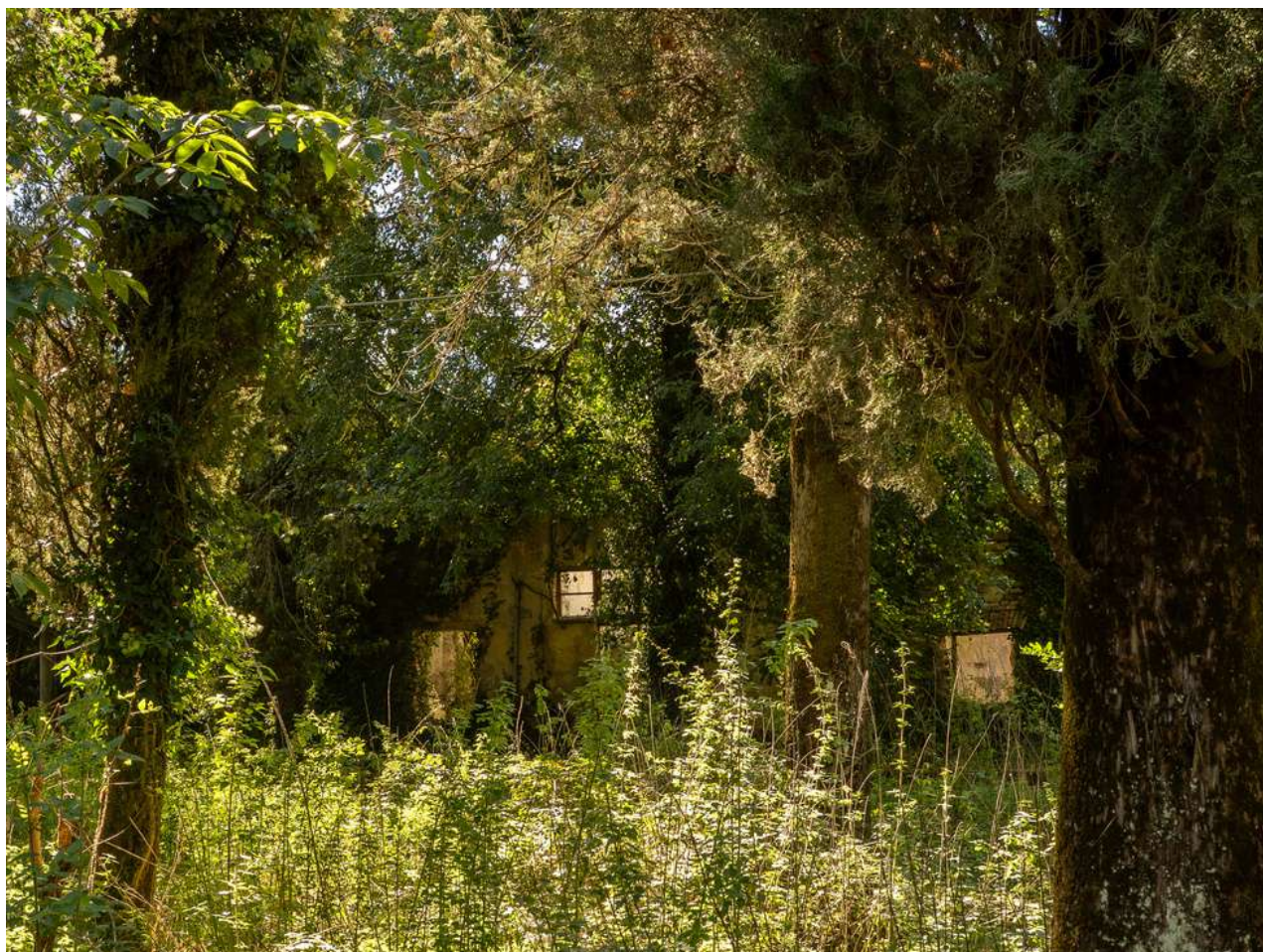
Chiara Reali





Maria-Teodora Andraşoni





Stefano Del Monte





Dunja Knabe



"Monumento agli Internati"

Questa opera dell'Architetto Niccolò Trovatiello
è dedicata:
alle popolazioni strappate alle loro terre
durante la II Guerra Mondiale
e internate nel Campo di concentramento "Le Fraschette"
al Vescovo di Alatri, Monsignor Edoardo Facchini,
e a quelli di Trieste e Gorizia;
ai Cappellani, alle Suore, alle Forze dell'Ordine,
agli abitanti di queste contrade
e a quanti si prodigarono per alleviare sofferenze e disperazioni
ai profughi e ai rifugiati fino agli anni Settanta
nel Centro di raccolta "Le Fraschette".
Il vivo auspicio è che simili sofferenze
non abbiano mai più a ripetersi.

Alatri, 2 aprile 2016.





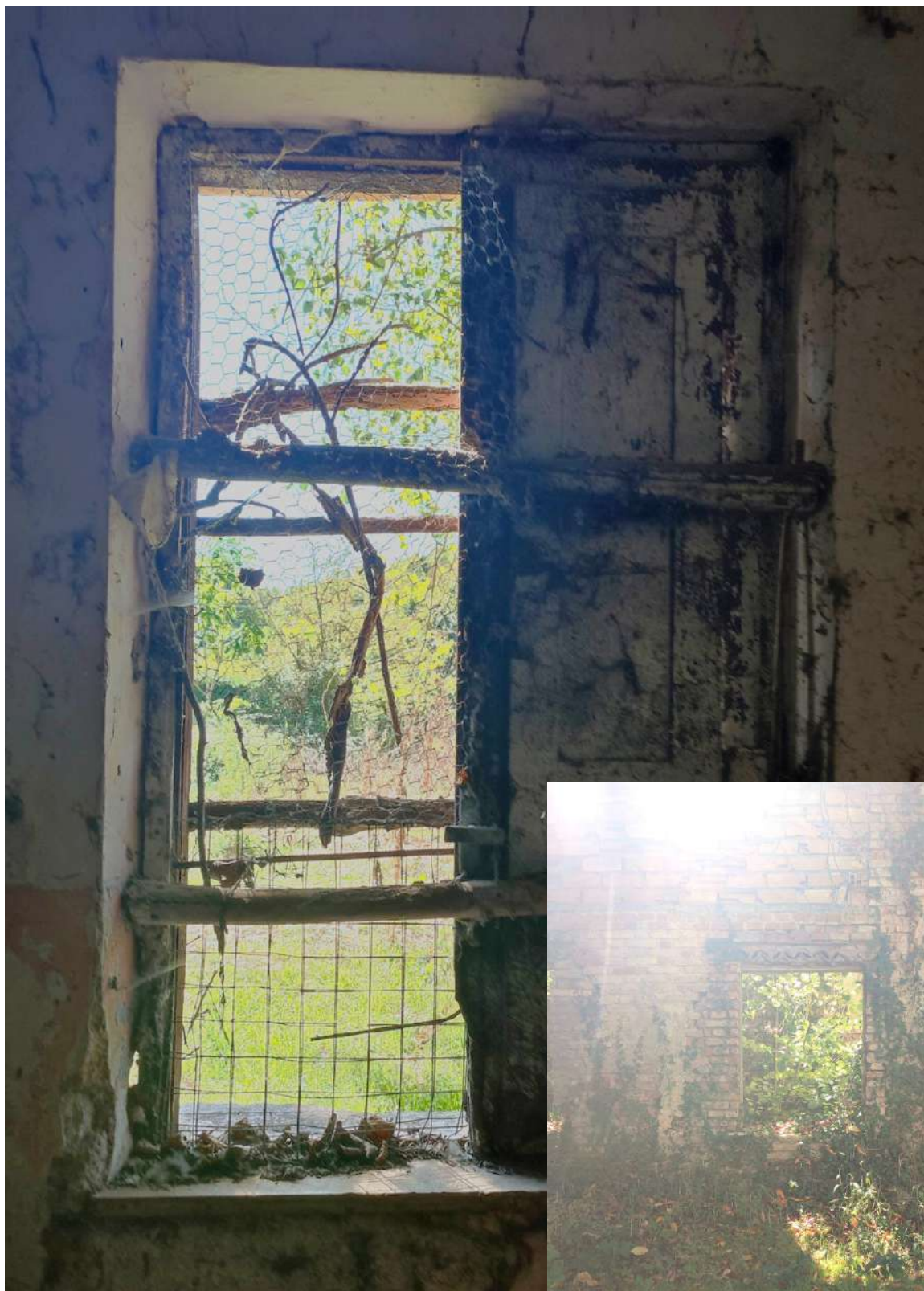
Lidija Franović





Vilson Blloshmi





Marija Bišćan





Filippo Agostinelli





Helena Redmer





Lea Šipetić





Benjamin Morrison

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