

Standing still at stumbling stones

Introduction

All over Europe, small brass plates embedded in sidewalks commemorate Jews that were killed in during nazi rule. The Podcast shows how these stumbling stones have come to enter the streets in four European cities: Düsseldorf, Maastricht, Munich, and Venice. It is produced as a student honors project at Maastricht University, supervised by prof. Nico Randeraad.

1. Düsseldorf

In 1938 Nazis killed many German Jews in the Novemberprogrome. This episode tells the story of Hedwig and Paul Marcus owned the Café Karema in Düsseldorf that night and how they are remembered.

2. Maastricht

This episode delves into Maastricht's history during the Second World War. It describes the influence of its geographical location and the bravery of the citizens. Victims of the Holocaust are remembered through the placing of 'Struikelstenen'. In Maastricht, there are over 350 of these stones spread throughout the city. The unique aspects of the project in this city in South-Limburg are discussed in this episode and it includes insights from Fred Grünfeld, chairman of this project in Maastricht, and the family Hellendall.

3. Munich

This episode looks at the complex landscape of the culture of remembrance in Munich, a city that was once a symbol of Nazi ideology and is now at the center of debates about commemorative practices. At the center of this discourse is the Stolpersteine project, which faces particular challenges in Munich due to the ban on laying stones on municipal land that has been in place since 2004. Despite this restriction, 276 Stolpersteine have been laid on private property, demonstrating the strong local support for the initiative.

Terry Swartzberg, the head of the Stolperstein Initiative in Munich, gives a nuanced insight into the importance of the project for the city and shares his personal experiences with the emotional and historical weight of daily confrontation with the stories of the victims of Nazi terror.

4. Venice

In this episode, we delve into the heart of Venice, discovering the meaning of 'pietre d'inciampo' for the Venetian community. In a city without cars, such as Venice, the stumbling stones are perhaps more visible than anywhere else. The stones serve as powerful memorials for the victims of the Holocaust, particularly in the Cannaregio district. A special thanks to Marco Borghi, for helping us in understanding the meaning and tools of remembrance in Venice.