

M U S I C A L   C O N S T R U C T I O N

By  
**Zbigniew Bargielski - Vienna**

For  
**Tadeusz Myslowski – New York**

***Shrine for an Anonymous Victim***  
An installation at a  
Nazi concentration camp

Created for the  
**M a j d a n e k   M u s e u m - Lublin, Poland**

Opened on July 23, 1999  
for the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
L i b e r a t i o n   o f   M a j d a n e k

***Shrine for an Anonymous Victim* by Tadeusz Myslowski**

Installation of art, music, and audio to be in original barrack of  
former Nazi concentration camp where 360,000 perished

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1999, the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the liberation of the Majdanek Nazi concentration camp in Lublin, Poland, "Shrine for an Anonymous Victim" by Tadeusz Myslowski, a New York-based artist, will be unveiled in Barrack #47 of the buildings which now house the Majdanek State Museum. Commissioned by the museum which was established in 1944 to serve as a reminder of Nazi horrors, Myslowski's installation will be comprised of two levels of bulbs, encased in barbed wire, each 32 cm in diameter. On the first level, the bulbs, suspended by barbed-wire from the ceiling and organized in four rows of thirteen, will be faintly lit to represent the enduring spirit of the victims; the bulbs on the second level, organized in four rows of eighteen, will remain unlit and placed on the ground to signify the silence of the dead. At the far end of barrack #47, twelve drawings by Myslowski, collectively titled, "Black Hole", will create an altar meant for meditation. Next to this altar there will be a book created in the traditional format of a Polish death announcement, a *Klepsydra*. The book of fifty-two pages pays tribute in the manner of an obituary to the fifty two different nationalities of the victims of the Majdanek concentration camp.

The artist, who was born and raised in Lublin, has donated his work to the museum which is on the site of a former Nazi concentration camp (second in size only to Auschwitz) where 360,000 people of over fifty different nationalities were exterminated. Myslowski has invited the participation of composer Zbigniew Bargielski, also of Lublin and now Vienna-based, and Tomasz Pietrasiewicz, director of Theater NN Brama Grodzka in Lublin, both of whom have also donated their work. The composer is contributing a special oratorio and a series of "whispered prayers" in an invented abstract language parsed from Russian, Polish, Romany, and Hebrew for the audio portion of the secular, multi-national installation. Pietrasiewicz is also creating multilingual "prayers" derived from the oral histories of the camp's survivors preserved in the museum's archives. This will include the inspirational account of Danuta Brzosko Medryk, a survivor of Majdanek and the author of "Matylda", a memoir of her experiences as a prisoner in the concentration camp.

"Shrine for an Anonymous Victim", according to Myslowski, is meant to be a lasting homage to all those who brutally died at Majdanek. "It is meant to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves," says the artist. "And to stand as a telling reminder of the perpetual nature of injustice which cannot be bound by time or place." Since Barrack #47 is situated in the last room of the museum tour, the installation will be a stark coda of the total experience of the past inhumanity and suffering which must never be forgotten. In this spirit, says Edward Balawejder, museum director, "Shrine for an Anonymous Victim" is an invitation to be cleansed and strengthened by one's visit to such hallowed ground.

Dr. Szymon Bojko  
**Warsaw 1999**