

STITCHING • HISTORY • FROM THE HOLOCAUST

Prague 1939: A True Story of Talent Lost. Paul and Hedy Strnad are trapped as the Nazis close in. Can Hedy's dress designs and their cousin in Milwaukee help them get to the United States?



All efforts failed. Hedy and Paul perished in the Holocaust, but their memory lives on in the letter and sketches which form the core of this haunting exhibit. Experience Hedy's designs brought to life.

Rental Information

Jewishmuseum
MILWAUKEE



A PROGRAM OF
MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

HEDY'S DRESSES

In 1939, Paul Strnad wrote the following to his cousin Alvin: *"By separate mail I have sent you some dress-designs my wife made. I hope the dress manufacturer you mentioned in your letter will like them."*



"The fashions are both text and textile, a story of life and death told in fabric." **The New York Times**



Stitching History from the Holocaust is so named because at its core, it consists of eight dress designs which are the creative work of Hedwig Strnad, who was killed in the Holocaust. The dressmaking motif is used to pair two kinds of “stitching:” creating the dresses from the sketches sent to her husband’s relatives in Milwaukee, and recreating Hedwig’s history. With each artifact—a drawing, a letter, a photograph—the visitor is drawn into the investigative work around Hedy’s life and the lives of her family.

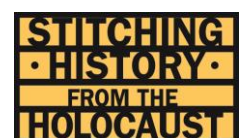
The Holocaust took human lives and deprived the world of the contributions of these individuals. This exhibit highlights a talent recently illuminated and a story that can never be completed. While diligence and chance may uncover other stories and talents, the majority will never be revealed. We can only mourn this immense loss.

EXHIBIT COMPONENTS

- 8 Ensembles based on the designs of Hedwig Strnad
- 8 Pairs of Shoes
- 8 Mannequins, with padding and touch up paint to create the best possible fit/look
- 2 Purses
- 6 Hats, 1 Silk Flower
- 8 Paper Wigs
- 3 Pairs of Gloves
- 8 Risers (6: 36”x36”x 4”, 2: 36”x36”x 6”,) with acrylic stands and holders that show the dress designs
- 1 Fabric Wall (96”x92”), SIDE 1: introductory panel; SIDE 2: information about dressmaking
- 5 Didactic Panels (4 are 36”x 24”, 1 is 44”x18”)
- 1 Family Tree Panel (40”x36”)
- 3 Wallscapes (approx. 122”x106”) that depict Czech cityscapes
- 4 Fabric Banners (103”x46”) that depict the plight of Czech Jewry through archival images
- 1 Fabric Banner (101”x46”) showing the Charles Bridge
- 5 Large Crates, 1 Flat Crate for Panels, 1 Pallet for Mannequin Risers

Supporting Materials:

- Introductory Film (6:38 minutes)
- Teacher’s Guide
- Installation and Design Manual with videos and instructions for dressing the mannequins
- Link and access to exhibit website
- Program calendar for exhibit at JMM
- Products for retail sale, including catalog



RENTAL INFORMATION

Cost: \$10,000.00 for 3 Month Rental

Standard Rental Length is 3 Months (negotiable)

Shipping Costs: Roundtrip transit or a pro-rated amount based on rental schedule

Requirements and Installation:

- The exhibit must be in a secure space with monitored/limited foot traffic.
- The exhibit must be displayed in a space with no exposure to natural light. The range for artificial light must not exceed 10 footcandles.
- Jewish Museum Milwaukee (JMM) requires the submission and review of a facility report for all interested organizations to verify required rental criteria.
- The renting organization must provide proof of insurance in the amount of \$100,000.
- JMM requires that the staff handling the textile ensembles and mannequin set-up must prove expertise in this area, hire a professional with textile experience, or arrange to bring the JMM curator to the renting venue for installation and dismantling.
- Museum staff is available for lectures, presentations and trainings.

