



TREBLINKA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
AND ARTISTIC RESPONSES

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A Window Into Hell

Treblinka Finds
Hilary Jack

The discovery of the remains of the gas chambers and a large amount of other buried evidence seventy years after Treblinka extermination camp closed demonstrates the value of archaeological investigations at Holocaust sites now and in the future. It also highlights that the long-standing belief that the Nazis completely destroyed the camp was incorrect. The excavation of the 1m x 1m trench in the area of the old gas chambers alone highlighted the abundance of material that survives.

"Treblinka Finds" focuses on these objects. The list of objects have been printed onto Perspex the same size as the excavated trench using a font resembling the signage at the Treblinka railway station. Whilst each object has the potential to demonstrate individual and collective experiences, the work draws attention to the number of items found in such a small space and, therefore, how much evidence may remain undiscovered elsewhere at the site. The list of objects also reflects the cataloguing process that occurs at the end of archaeological fieldwork.

