

YELLOW BADGE ON THE HOUSE, YELLOW BADGE ON THE COAT

The Yellow Badge in Hungary 1944-1945

The Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives and the 2B Gallery cordially invites you to the opening of the exhibition Yellow Badge on the House, Yellow Badge on the Coat. The Yellow Badge in Hungary 1944-1945 on

Thursday 27th February 2020 at 6 p.m.

Location: Budapest, 1092, Ráday st. 47

Opening remarks by Péterfy Gergely, writer

Curator: Jalsovszky Katalin

The exhibition is on view to 3 April 2020

In the early summer of 1944, an easily noticeable, hexagram-shaped yellow badge appeared on the clothes of almost 700 000 Hungarian citizens. This mark stigmatized those who wore them and made them vulnerable to all kinds of racist atrocities and made the implementation of the antisemitic laws – that expanded already to every aspect of daily life – even more easier.

About those, who were marked by the yellow badge, very few photos are preserved, not surprisingly, because they didn't want to be seen and remembered like this. There weren't even too many possibilities to take photos, among many of their other properties, Jews couldn't keep their cameras either. And there wasn't so much time either, the countryside Jews were very quickly collected into ghettos and from there they were sent, in a few weeks to extermination camps within totally inhumane circumstances. Their faces disappeared with them, the faces we see on the walls of the exhibition, mainly belong to the survivors of the Shoah.

The diaries and memoirs, the articles from the contemporary newspapers, the placards will show us the process the atmosphere of those days, the sufferings the Hungarian Jews underwent in this period and the reactions of the wider Hungarian society to the stigmatization of their fellow citizens who were labeled „Jewish” according to the racist laws. Humiliation, shame, fear, despair, rarely wrath, the feelings of those who faced persecution, and, on the other side, indifference or, not so rarely, active hostility, hatred. Those who became compassionate, who felt sorry, usually didn't dare to openly express their feelings because they were afraid of retribution. The decree that prescribed the

wearing of the yellow badge for jews, fatally divided hungarian society and in itself was a huge step towards the nazi's goal, the „final soution”, the depravation of the hungarian jews from their properties, their isolation, deportation and – finally – annihilation.