



Construyendo la memoria
fotografica en Rabinal

By: Alayna Wool

A community project to comprehend reality.

With the creation of the LIVING HISTORY PROJECT, “The Documentation Team” in collaboration with the Association of Justice and Reconciliation (AJR) was able to rescue photographs with 108 families that survived the 1982 Internal Armed Conflict in Rabinal, Guatemala.





We coordinated initial meetings in 7 of the most affected communities of Rabinal to invite victims to participate in the project.

The communities
surrounding the
valley of Rabinal.





The Documentation Team



Individual Meetings with survivors.



Photographing in the field.



Survivors of the community Panacal and President of AJR.



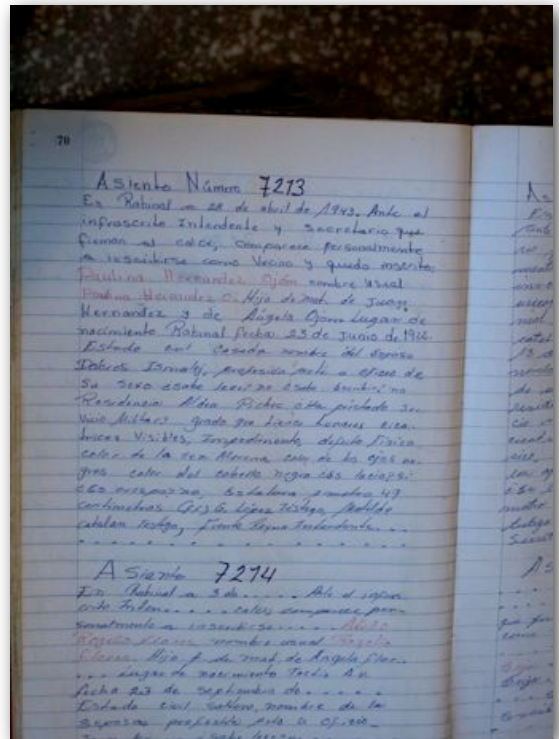
Rescuing photographs with participants.



Community Bonds.



Rescuing photographs that have not been seen in over 28 years.



Locating photographs.



Community involvement.



Maps of communities made by survivors.

Design Process...

- The wall to install the photographic memory in Rabinal surrounded the town cemetery. Where many of the victims of the war have been reburied.
- The area of the wall to be covered with the LIVING HISTORY photographic montage, measured 490 ft by 5 ft tall, a whole city block!
- We used the best quality exterior vinyl laminated with UV protection made by 3M which lasts up to 15 years.
- The “sticker” vinyl is impregnated onto a cinder block wall with heat guns at 1200 degrees.
- The design was completed in ten panels of 42.57 feet each, for a grand total of a design that was 26 gigabytes of information.

Continued

- The complete design housed over 6,000 names of the victims of the genocide in Rabinal
- Over 2000 photographs were exhibited, that were rescued by the “Documentation Team”
- A portion of the design was dedicated to the cultural values of Rabinal and the traditions that are most important to the Maya Achi
- The final design includes photographs from renowned photographers such as Eisen’s 1902 images (the earliest photographs to date of Rabinal). Also photographs by Jean-Marie Simons, Foto Geronimo, and Bert Jensen.
- Every design element that was included in the photographic montage was a idea from a community member.

Panel A



Panel B



Panel C



Panel D



Panel E



Panel F



Panel G



Panel H



Panel I



Panel J



At the printer's...





INSTALLATION!



More installation...is that rain coming???



The sweet smell of success!



November 24, 2010 - Breaking the Silence -Innaguration Day



Beginning with a 5AM Mayan Ceremony and Marimba!



Blessing and procession by spiritual guide and survivors of the victims that were innocently killed.



Survivors are reunited with victims that were massacred.



Unveiling the Wall...

the truth is told.



A moment in history is made.



Words from the municipal authority.



A proud team! (minus one)



Sounds of marimba in honor of the victims.



Gifting a photograph...



Photographic reunion with family members.

There were many months of sleepless nights, tears shed, learning every mountain trail like the palm of my hand, empathetic pain that I have never known, all to achieve a common goal. We immersed ourselves in the community, supporting family members psychologically and morally, to continue their struggle to gain justice against those responsible for horrific acts of genocide, we provided a fundamental base to discover the truth.

I want to take a this moment to thank each and every one of you for coming tonight and being so very supportive of myself and the LIVING HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHIC MONTAGE in Rabinal. Your help and support made this project a reality.

THANK YOU

