



"I've always felt it in me that my mother went through this, and in me, it manifested as barbed wire that goes through my back. [...] Telling my mother's story has become a healing process for me."

Artist Statement

Ine van Dam joined the Holocaust Center for Humanity's Speakers Bureau as a legacy speaker in 2019. There she shares the story of her mother, Ada van Ezzo, who was deported to Auschwitz in 1943 and later sent to the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp, from where she was liberated in 1945. Ine was born in Holland and moved to the Pacific Northwest when she was nine. She is also fluent in multiple languages and now works as an interpreter.

In our conversation with Ine, we not only discussed her family's story but also her own story, growing up as a child of a Holocaust survivor and how the intergenerational trauma has manifested itself both physically and mentally in her life. Each person can be affected very differently--a contrast that Ine said she noticed even between her mom and herself. The visual for my piece was inspired by Ine's quote above, in reflection of how words and storytelling can be used to unbind the constraints of history.

Shot on Nikon D5300 f/4.5 34.00mm; Edited with Snapseed; Annabelle Falconer, 2021