



Activity 3

Isolation

The experience of the Holocaust for most people was one of dehumanization, deprivation of food and comfort, brutality of treatment and of fear of death and the unknown. There are many photographs and images of starving people in camps who have become faceless and dispossessed. People were given a number and deprived of any individuality.

- Use flexible wire to make a stick person (armature). The frame should include a wire base and the person should at this point be a neutral standing figure (maximum height 30cm).
- Wrap the figure in strips of fabric. The fabric should be monochromatic (e.g. black, white, grey) and could include materials such as bandage or lint. The fabric can be cut or ripped up.
- Decide on how big you want to build up the body and whether it should look clothed or naked. Glue the material to ensure the figure holds together well and leave to dry.
- When it is dry, manipulate the figure into a pose or position reflecting the situation. (You may need to firm up the base with cardboard). The figure can be lying, standing, etc.
- Arrange the figures into groupings.

Discuss the effect of the finished groupings. The students might decide to put all the figures together or to arrange small groups. It might be a series of separate figures or a mass of people. Some might be onlookers, others not. Explore the narrative or stories behind the arrangements that might be made and how the stories change when different groupings are created. You might like to look at Anthony Gormley's *Field* or Giacometti's sculptures for inspiration.

Resources

Thin galvanised wire (which must be flexible and malleable). Black, white, grey strips of fabric (bandage, lint). Strong glue and PVA/wood glue. Card.