

ART OF DISSSENT



Depression

Themes

- Depression/death
- Suffocation
- Loss of perspective

Before the Viewing

- What stories/movies do you recall that feature people being buried alive? Why is this a common theme?
- Imagine you are an artist in Nazi Germany as friends disappear. What images would you use to create your sense of depression?
- What does the image the tree of life suggest to you?

Discussion

- This painting makes it difficult to get your bearings. Whose hand is coming through the hole? Is the contained area a coffin? Where is the person lying? Why does the artist leave you without bearings?
- As in other Fick works, everything is cut off. If you could extend everything, what would you see? Where is this person?
- What is the symbolism of the tree? Why is it seemingly inside the coffin?

Activities

- Create your own colour scheme for this work called *Depression*. Be prepared to explain your colour choices
- Use conté to make the lying head face the viewer in the same scale as in the painting. Your title should reflect what the person is saying
- In a sense, this painting is a cry for help. Imagine you work for a suicide hotline and write out the first few things you'd say to this person

Extensions

- The Jewish artist Lea Grundig created a work called *Nazi in the House* in a series of prints called *Under the Swastika*. Find a copy of Grundig's work and compare and contrast it with Fick's *Depression*
- *The Diary of Anne Frank* and Fick's *Depression* both deal with confined spaces and fear. How do the works contrast?
- In the 1931 released film Boris Karloff was Frankenstein. In Germany Fritz Lang's 1931 film *M* featured a psychotic child murderer who the police can't catch. What is going on in the world to inspire such films? Find some other examples of films that reflect their time period.