

BLACK FLAG INSTALLATIONS

What is it?

Installation art is a genre of contemporary art. It was coined in this context in reference to a form of art that had arguably existed since prehistory but was not regarded as a discrete category until the mid-twentieth century. It incorporates a range of materials to influence the way we experience or perceive a particular space.

The UCC Committee for National Holodomor Awareness proposes that every city set up black flag installations during Holodomor Awareness Week. An installation consists of 33 black flags along with one Ukrainian flag, accompanied by a sign with text as outlined below.

Where:

Situated in visible, high traffic city locations, the installations attract passers-by who stop to learn more about this crime against humanity. Such displays can also be prominently displayed in municipal and federal buildings. In addition to promoting awareness, the goal is to attract media attention.

Ukrainian churches, schools, cultural centres, retirement properties etc. can be utilized for black flag installations where available.

Taking advantage of Canada's recognition of the Holodomor as an act of genocide, as well as recognition by many provinces, each branch is encouraged to approach their City Hall, provincial and federal buildings, for permission to display a black flag installation. Local Members of Parliament can be approached to facilitate contact with the Ministry of Public Works that is in charge of all federal buildings. The Ministry will provide the necessary information and names of individuals to contact at each federal building (manager, chief engineer, security).

Other potential locations for installations are schools.

How:

Each installation should include a sign, 33 black flags and 1 Ukrainian flag. The sign includes the International Holodomor logo and the text below.

Signage:

The signs, measuring 3 ft. long and 2 feet wide, can be prepared by local sign companies. It is a one-time expense as the signs can be used each year. A plastic covering is recommended to preserve the sign against the elements.

Text:**REMEMBERING THE HOLODOMOR — GENOCIDE OF THE UKRAINIANS**

"The third prong of the Soviet plan was aimed at the farmers, ... the weapon used ... the most terrible of all — starvation." Raphael Lemkin, father of the UN Convention on Genocide.

As the Ukrainian national revival of the 1920s progressed towards the affirmation of state sovereignty and independence, it was met by the Communist regime with repressive measures and genocide. Stalin's intention was two-fold: a) to kill a large part of the most conscious opponents of the Russian-imposed regime with expeditious executions of Ukraine's national elites and slow starvation of the farmers; b) to transform the remaining freedom loving Ukrainian population into Russified cogs of the Soviet imperialist state machinery. Every year in November people the world over honour the victims of this crime. The 33 flags displayed here symbolize the year 1933, when the famine reached its zenith.

Flags:

The flags should be approximately 3-4 ft high (similar to election signs) for better visibility from the street. One suggestion is to use 4 foot, ½ inch square dowels available in building supply stores. Black lining material from fabric stores is durable and inexpensive. The approximate size of each flag in the attached photos is just under a foot and a half by one foot. Sewing a hem around the flag will prevent fraying and increase the life of the flag. It can then be stapled to the 4 foot dowel. The Ukrainian flag can be slightly higher than the rest. Sample mock ups and photos are attached.

Smaller sized displays can be made for indoor use as in the attached photo of the installation that was displayed in the Hamilton Federal building.

If possible, literature should be made available in a nearby building or location.

Photos of Black Flag installations from 2009 (Hamilton and Toronto)





HOLODOMOR
 Ukrainian Famine-Genocide 1932-33
 ...The year and its horrors still haunt my nights. The year '33...
 -Mina F. DSW, Holocaust survivor.



HOLODOMOR
 Ukrainian Famine-Genocide 1932-33

...The year and its horrors still haunt my nights. The year '33...
 -Mina F. DSW, Holocaust survivor.

In 1932-33, millions of Ukrainians were purposely starved to death by the Soviet regime. To break the back of "nationalist" resistance to Soviet power, an ancient nation was condemned to death by artificial famine. All grain and foodstuffs were forcibly seized and the borders of the Ukrainian SSR closed. In little more than a year one-quarter of the population of Soviet Ukraine perished. This genocide is known in Ukrainian as the Holodomor (from holod -famine, and morit' -to kill). Every year in November the world commemorates the victims of this crime against humanity. The 33 flags displayed here symbolize the year 1933, when the famine reached its zenith.