



# ON BEING A VICARIOUS WITNESS:

## AKTION T4 AND CONTESTING THE ERASURE OF DISABILITY HISTORY

FEATURING KENNY FRIES, PEREL, AND QUINTAN ANA WIKSWO  
MODERATED BY JULIA WATTS BELSER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021

3:00–4:15 PM EST VIA ZOOM



Photo credit: Michael R. Dekker

**KENNY FRIES**



**PEREL**



**QUINTAN ANA WIKSWO**



**JULIA WATTS BELSER**

Three queer Jewish disabled writers and artists each discuss their work on Aktion T4, a prime crucible of disability history. How do they avoid a sentimental or aesthetic depiction? In their work, and as they work, how do they avoid re-inscribing trauma? Because Aktion T4 has no survivors, how do writers and artists become “vicarious witnesses,” which memory studies scholar Susanne C. Knittel describes as not “an act of speaking for and thus appropriating the memory and story of someone else but rather an attempt to bridge the silence through narrative means”?

[Registration is required.](#)

This event is free and open to the public. American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation, live captioning, and image descriptions will be provided. Requests for other accommodations can be made (by 10/11/2021) by completing the accommodations request field in the [Zoom registration form](#).

Questions about this event can be directed to [oipo@syr.edu](mailto:oipo@syr.edu).

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