



PRESS KIT

The Hidden World of WWI

ABOUT JEFF GUSKY

Doctor—Artist—Explorer

Jeff Gusky lives two lives, one as a rural emergency physician and the other as a fine-art photographer and explorer.

Dr. Gusky's first year of medical school at the University of Washington was spent in Alaska as part of the WAMI Program, created to inspire students to become country doctors. Gusky graduated high in his class and was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha, the National Honor Medical Society. He combined his love of flying and rural medicine and used his plane to reach remote hospital emergency rooms on short notice throughout Texas and Oklahoma. Since 1991, he has taught trauma skills to other physicians as an instructor in the Advanced Trauma Life Support program and is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

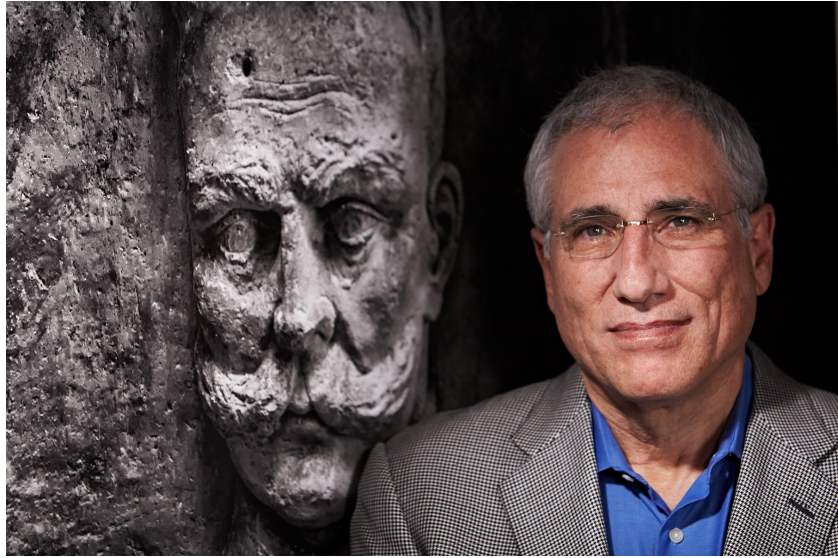


Photo credit: Stan Wolenski

Two books of black-and-white photography, multiple national exhibitions including the pairing of his work with the Spanish master Francisco de Goya and the legendary early 20th Century photographer Roman Vishniac, inclusion in a Broadway play and the honor of a Gusky traveling exhibition being ranked by *Artnet Magazine* on its 2009 list of the top 20 museum shows in America mark Gusky's fine-art career. He explores the world – photographing pieces of the past that can help us discover who we are and which inspire us to ask questions about the vulnerabilities of modern life that we have forgotten how to ask.

Gusky's discoveries and photographs are featured in the August 2014 issue of *National Geographic*, *The Hidden World of the Great War*.

Gusky resides in rural East Texas and in Dallas.

KEY MESSAGES: *THE HIDDEN WORLD OF WWI*

Under the former battlefields of WWI lie hundreds of forgotten rock quarries that were transformed into underground cities beneath the trenches, sheltering armies on both sides of the Great War from mass destruction. Cloaked in darkness under private land in the beautiful French countryside, these hidden communities are bristling with artifacts, sculptures and emotionally charged “graffiti” created by WWI soldiers. Frozen in time, the long unseen spaces form a direct human connection to men who lived a century before. They make 100 years ago seem like yesterday. They are *The Hidden World of WWI* that is all but unknown, even to the French.

American medical doctor, fine-art photographer and explorer Jeffrey Gusky was introduced to these underground cities by landowners and dedicated volunteers and their families who fiercely guard the secrets of these spaces with loving care to prevent them from being vandalized and to preserve them for the future. Dr. Gusky found it hard to believe that he was the first outsider privileged to systematically explore this *Hidden World* and that almost nothing about them can be found on the internet. Caretakers shared their precious secrets with Gusky and honored him with exclusive access to create a photographic legacy of *The Hidden World*, but with the proviso that he would work closely with them to protect these cultural treasures from harm.

Dr. Gusky has created thousands of images that document the lives, loves and longings of these modern young men who were the soldiers of WWI. The stone walls of the quarries are soft enough to be carved with simple tools. The men spent long hours recording indelible expressions of their humanity that are as fresh and powerful today as they were a century ago. The images are sometimes poignant, sometimes sad, but always deeply moving reminders that these men were not strange doughboys from old movies but modern people who were coping with the dehumanizing horrors of war in the same way that we would cope if faced with these horrors today.

These cities now exist in total darkness. All equipment must be carried underground by hand, often snaking over, under and around shifting debris, frozen mud and fallen rock. Despite this inaccessibility, the underground spaces gave up their wonders under the artist’s visionary approach. Raking light over the carvings to make them stand out clearly, Dr. Gusky has succeeded in creating strikingly beautiful images that cause the viewer to stop and look...really look. The first impression of many viewers is stunned surprise and the second is a desire to linger, discuss and ask questions.

Dr. Gusky’s published work focuses on pieces of the past, hidden in plain sight, that can help us discover who we are and inspire us to ask questions about the vulnerabilities of modern life that we have forgotten how to ask. *The Hidden World of WWI* is his third major project.

ARTIST'S MESSAGE

Dr. Jeff Gusky, American doctor, fine-art photographer and explorer, has pursued a 20-year quest to discover the origins of modern mass destruction and terrorism. On a trip to Poland in the dead of winter in 1995, he spent time alone in a basement torture chamber at a Nazi concentration camp. Despite the passage of 50 years, the torture chamber still felt evil and oppressive. Ascending the stairs into the bleak winter light, he glanced at a nearby guard tower and was struck with the realization that the threat of mass destruction and genocide is with us still. He wanted to know why.

Gusky spent months on the ground in France, Belgium, Moldova, Romania, the Ukraine and Israel. On return from these journeys, with critical input and guidance from his friend and collaborator, Dallas lawyer and scholar Reid Heller, Gusky and Heller analyzed source materials that traced modern mass destruction to its origins in the late 19th century.

Gusky said, "Since the birth of the modern city in the 1870s, millions and millions of people have moved from the human scale of rural life with its attendant natural human rhythms and touch points to the inhuman scale of massive, impersonal modern cities. Enthrilled by the power, exhilaration and conveniences of city life, the inhuman scale of the city gets inside us and makes us numb and cut off from the things in life that sustain our humanity. When we lose touch with human reference points and replace them with blind faith in modern technology, we become dehumanized and vulnerable to the dark side of modern progress.

"Approximately 120 years ago, blind faith in progress and public opinion – amplified by the brand new technology of mass media – led to a gradual, almost imperceptible relaxation of judgment and conscience. The spectacular achievements of progress allowed people to lose touch with the fragility of their civilization...and their own self-protective instincts. It took less than 30 years for the new democracies, intoxicated by progress, to march enthusiastically into a meat grinder...the first modern mass destruction: WWI.

"*The Hidden World of WWI* gives us a glimpse into the individual humanity of soldiers who refused to be silenced in the face of modern mass destruction. Men from both sides defied the inhuman scale of modern life and declared themselves as human beings who could think and feel and express and create, and who remind us today that they were here and that they once existed as living, breathing human beings."

Gusky has recently announced that he will publish a series of almost 2,000 images documenting *The Hidden World of WWI*. The photographs explore an all but forgotten soldier's world in the underground cities beneath the trenches of the Western Front in France.

HISTORY

Books

2008 – *Bordertown: The Odyssey of an American Place*, Yale University Press.

Bordertown is the story of a once powerful yet now impoverished locale on the Texas-Mexico border which has been a full participant in American life since it became American soil in 1848. It's a story of power, patriotism and self-determination by early Mexican-Americans. The book was the recipient of the Popular Culture/American Culture Association's Ray and Pat Browne Award for the Best Reference/Primary Source Work in Popular and American Culture in 2008. Co-authored with SMU Professor Ben Johnson. ISBN: 0300139284.

2004 – *Silent Places: Landscapes of Jewish Life & Loss*, Overlook-Duckworth (New York, London). *Silent Places* is a photo essay of remote villages where Jews lived and worked for almost 1,000 years before the Holocaust. The artist has captured on film the austere landscapes and the remains of a once thriving Jewish culture. The silence is deafening: there are Jewish cemeteries full of broken gravestones, ruined synagogues filled with trash and disfigured with graffiti, a Jewish home now used as a public toilet – “where people lived, walked, worshipped, and were, ultimately, exterminated,” says Gusky. The doleful, understated clarity of what he saw and photographed captures a poignant sense of loss – making at the same time an indelible connection to the past. Roger Rosenblatt's essay on the book aired on PBS' [The Newshour](#) with Jim Lehrer on December 17, 2003.

Exhibitions

2011 – *The People in the Picture*. Gusky's photographs of Eastern Europe were featured in this Studio 54 Theatre Broadway production, New York. The musical, which starred Donna Murphy – who received a Tony nomination, is about a Jewish grandmother's memories of her life in the Yiddish theatre and the Holocaust.

2009 – [Of Life and Loss: The Polish Photographs of Roman Vishniac and Jeffrey Gusky](#)

Ranked by *Artnet Magazine* (Spring, 2009) as one of the top 20 museum shows in America alongside shows at the Guggenheim, the Smithsonian and the Met, the exhibition opened at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art in October 2008 to record crowds and continued as a traveling exhibition. The presence of life in Vishniac's photographs from the 1930s arranged side by side with the absence of life in Gusky's contemporary photographs convey the incomprehensible loss created by modern mass destruction.

2003-2004 – [Images of Human Tragedy in Black & White](#) An exhibition at the Meadows Museum in Dallas, Texas, paired 45 original Disasters of War etchings by Francisco de Goya with 45 of Gusky's contemporary photographs.

2002 – [The Landscape of Loss](#) A solo exhibition at the Robert Hull Fleming Museum of Art in Burlington, Vermont, which included approximately 100 of Gusky's black-and-white photographs of the architectural ruins of the once thriving Jewish civilization and culture in Eastern Europe destroyed in World War II.

IN THE NEWS

January 5, 2015	<i>El Paso Inc.</i>	<u>Echoes of the Great War</u>
December 28, 2014	<i>New York Times</i>	<u>In France, Vestiges of the Great War's Bloody End</u>
December 27, 2014	<i>Blur Brain</i>	<u>Citizens of One French Province Know Role of Les Americans in Defeating Germans</u>
December 17, 2014	<i>ACEP Now</i>	<u>Emergency Physician Documents Hidden World War I Art, Artifacts in Photographs</u>
November 20, 2014	<i>Charles Adler Show</i>	<u>My interview with one of the most fascinating guests ever — doctor/photographer Jeff Gusky</u>
November 18, 2014	<i>USA Today</i>	<u>Surprising secrets under World War I trenches</u>
November 14, 2014	<i>SF Gate</i>	<u>Photographer unearths 'lost' underground cities of World War I</u>
November 14, 2014	<i>San Antonio Express News</i>	<u>Photographer unearths 'lost' underground cities of World War I</u>
November 14, 2014	<i>Sorn Magazine</i>	<u>The Hidden Underground Cities of WW1 By Jeffery</u>

[Gusky](#)

November 13, 2014	<i>R 7 Hora 7</i>	<u>Segredos de guerra! Cidades perdidas guardam esculturas bizarras e historias mal-assombradas</u>
November 12, 2014	<i>Interfaith Housing Peacemakers Blog</i>	<u>WWI: Underground Works of Art</u>
November 12, 2014	<i>KVUE</i>	<u>Surprising secrets under World War I trenches</u>
November 12, 2014	<i>The Daily Star</i>	<u>The underground city</u>
November 12, 2014	<i>Daily Mail</i>	<u>WW1 Troops abandoned quarries into hidden cities</u>
November 12, 2014	<i>Houston Chronicle</i>	<u>Photographer unearths 'lost' underground cities of World War I</u>
November 12, 2014	<i>KHOU</i>	<u>Surprising secrets under World War I trenches</u>
November 12, 2014	<i>Kens 5 Eyewitness News</i>	<u>Surprising secrets under World War I trenches</u>
November 12, 2014	<i>Nuvo Magazine</i>	<u>The Hidden World of World War I</u>
November 12, 2014	<i>WFAA – Midday News at 12 p.m.</i>	<u>Surprising secrets under World War I trenches</u>

November 11,2014	<i>Rico's Rants</i>	<u>Cities under the trenches</u>
November 11, 2014	<i>Florida Newstime</i>	<u>WW1 troops turned abandoned quarries into hidden cities</u>
November 11, 2014	<i>WFAA News 8 Update at 10 p.m.</i>	<u>Surprising secrets under World War I trenches</u>
November 11, 2014	<i>Yahoo/ABC Power Players</i>	<u>Beneath the trenches: The secret world of the Great War revealed</u>
November 10, 2014	<i>Stylezza</i>	<u>Armistice Day: WWI photos of a world frozen in time 100 years ago</u>
November 4, 2014	<i>Cidadania</i>	<u>Fotografias revelam amargo cotidiano de refugiados em túneis da Primeira Guerra Mundial</u>
November 4, 2014	<i>History – Brasil</i>	<u>Fotografias revelam amargo cotidiano de refugiados em túneis da Primeira Guerra Mundial</u>
October 31, 2014	<i>PR Week</i>	<u>Underground cities along Western front come into sharp focus</u>
October 18, 2014	<i>Focus</i>	<u>Warum sich Kriegsschauplätze als Touristenziel eignen</u>

October 8, 2014	<i>Television Nacional de Chile —24 Horas</i>	Así son las "cuevas artísticas" que pintaron los aliados en la Primera Guerra Mundial
October 8, 2014	<i>Peacenews.org</i>	The hidden art of world wars underground
October 8, 2014	<i>Correo</i>	I Guerra Mundial: Las cuevas artísticas de los soldados aliados
October 7, 2014	<i>South African Art Times</i>	The hidden art of war underground
October 7, 2014	<i>ARD</i>	Geheime Höhlenstädte des Ersten Weltkrieges Kulturjournal NDR
October 7, 2014	<i>Special Broadcasting Service</i>	Confrécourt caves reveal secrets of WWI soldiers
October 6, 2014	<i>Nigeria News</i>	The hidden art of war underground
October 6, 2014	<i>Israel News</i>	The Hidden art of war underground
October 6, 2014	<i>NDR</i>	Wo Weltkriegssoldaten zu Höhlenmalern wurden
October 6, 2014	<i>BBC News</i>	The Hidden Art of War underground
October 3, 2014	<i>Interia TV</i>	Tajemnicze odkrycie z

[czasów I wojny światowej](#)

September 26, 2014	<i>Boursirama</i>	<u>14-18 : des oeuvres souterraines révèlent les espoirs des soldats</u>
September 26, 2014	<i>Popular Military</i>	<u>Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears</u>
September 25, 2014	<i>The Daily Journal</i>	<u>Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears</u>
September 25, 2014	<i>Yahoo! News</i>	<u>Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears</u>
September 25, 2014	<i>Yahoo! Screen</i>	<u>Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears</u>
September 25, 2014	<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	<u>Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears</u>
September 25, 2014	<i>MSN</i>	<u>Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears</u>
September 25, 2014	<i>Albuquerque Journal</i>	<u>Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears</u>
September 25, 2014	<i>Science Daily</i>	<u>Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears</u>

September 25, 2014	<i>News R</i>	Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears
September 25, 2014	<i>One India</i>	Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears
September 25, 2014	<i>Diari Del Web</i>	The Hidden world Of The Great War: la WWI nei tunnel francesi
September 25, 2014	<i>Yahoo! News Singapore</i>	Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears
September 25, 2014	<i>Yahoo! News UK & Ireland</i>	Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears
September 24, 2014	<i>24 Ore Stream 24</i>	Paura e speranza nei tunnel francesi della prima guerra mondiale
September 24, 2014	<i>Inquirer.net</i>	Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears Underground art reveals WW1 soldiers' hopes and fears
September 22, 2014	<i>DasErste</i>	Die geheimen Höhlenstädte des Ersten Weltkrieges - Auf Entdeckungstour mit Fotograf Jeffrey Gusky
September 16, 2014	<i>New York Times Lens Blog</i>	The Hidden Cities of World War I

September 3, 2014	<i>National Geographic – Germany</i>	<u>Kampfkunst – In den Höhlen der Westfront</u>
August 29, 2014	<i>Lancaster Online</i>	<u>Site-seeing: Jeff Gusky, photographer</u>
August 29, 2014	<i>Business Weekly – Taiwan</i>	<u>Underground Art</u>
August 29, 2014	<i>French Morning Texas</i>	<u>Un Texan ressuscite les Poilus</u>
August 25, 2014	<i>Nikkei BP</i>	<u>The Hidden World of the Great War</u>
August 24, 2014	<i>The Jesus Question Blog</i>	<u>Roundup: Childlike faith, benediction, WWI art, and a poem</u>
August 24, 2014	<i>Hismag.org</i>	<u>Discovered underground cities of the First World War</u>
August 20, 2014	<i>Centenary News</i>	<u>The Hidden World of the Great War: Photographer Jeff Gusky explores the Western Front's underground cities</u>
August 18, 2014	<i>A Writer of History</i>	<u>Hidden World of World War I</u>
August 18, 2014	<i>McKinney Courier-Gazette</i>	<u>Dallas-based photographer's WWI images in National Geographic collection</u>
August 15, 2014	<i>National Geographic En Español</i>	<u>El Mundo Escondido De La Gran Guerra</u>
August 14, 2014	<i>NTV MSNBC – Turkey</i>	<u>Tünellerde saklı dünya</u>
August 14, 2014	<i>Photo District News</i>	<u>The Hidden World Beneath World War I Battlefields</u>
August 14, 2014	<i>History News Network</i>	<u>100-Year-Old Underground Cities Never Seen Before</u>
August 11, 2014	<i>La Tercera</i>	<u>El oculto legado de los soldados de la I Guerra Mundial</u>
August 11, 2014	<i>National Geographic – Turkey</i>	<u>Tünellerde Saklı Dünya</u>

August 8, 2014	<i>National Geographic – Portugal</i>	O Mundo Oculto da Grande Guerra
August 8, 2014	<i>Dallas Morning News</i>	Photographer documents forgotten WWI scenes from underground
August 5, 2014	<i>National Geographic – Italy</i>	National Geographic Italia, agosto 2014
August 4, 2014	<i>National Geographic – Indonesia</i>	Yang Terkubur dari Perang Dunia I
August 4, 2014	<i>National Geographic – Hungary</i>	Tűzszünet a föld alatt
August 1, 2014	<i>National Geographic – Taiwan</i>	第一次世界大戰地底祕境 (The Hidden World of the Great War)
August 1, 2014	<i>National Geographic</i>	The Hidden World of the Great War
July 31, 2014	<i>National Geographic Society – Photo of the Day</i>	Photo of the Day: Return to Nature
July 31, 2014	<i>National Geographic Italy – Photo of the Day</i>	Le foto del giorno, agosto 2014
July 31, 2014	<i>KERA NEWS</i>	Think: The Trench Art of World War I
July 31, 2014	<i>KERA NEWS: Think Program</i>	Art In The Trenches
July 31, 2014	<i>KERA NEWS</i>	Study Up For ‘Think’: The Hidden World Of WWI
July 28, 2014	<i>National Geographic – Deutschland</i>	Fotostrecke: Kriegskunst
July 28, 2014	<i>Ottawa Life Magazine</i>	The Hidden World of the First World War
July 28, 2014	<i>Fox 9 News Twin Cities</i>	FOX 4Ward: WWI Pictures
July 28, 2014	<i>Fox 4 News DFW</i>	Fox 4Ward: WWI Pictures
July 28, 2014	<i>Photoblographer</i>	Jeff Gusky: Photographing The Cities In the Trenches of World War I

July 27, 2014	<i>Papers</i>	<u>La Première Guerre mondiale comme rarement vue</u>
July 25, 2014	<i>America Tonight with Kate Delaney</i>	<u>WhatuMissed – Dr. Jeff Gusky</u>
July 25, 2014	<i>WBAA</i>	<u>ER Physician Documents ‘Lost Underground’ Of WWI</u>
July 25, 2014	<i>Here & Now</i>	<u>ER Physician Documents ‘Lost Underground’ Of WWI</u>
July 24, 2014	<i>McCormick Foundation</i>	<u>On the Scene: The McCormick Foundation</u>
July 22, 2014	<i>CBC Information Morning Cape Breton</i>	<u>WWI Artifacts</u>
July 22, 2014	<i>War History Online</i>	<u>Photography Shows Interior of WWI Tunnels</u>
July 21, 2014	<i>CBC Edmonton</i>	<u>Art from the trenches</u>
July 21, 2014	<i>History In An Hour</i>	<u>The Hidden World of World War One</u>
July 19, 2014	<i>CultureMap Dallas</i>	<u>One Arts Plaza in Dallas displays never-before-seen images of WWI</u>
July 19, 2014	<i>Dallas Morning News</i>	<u>Dallas doctor documents the buried cities of World War I hidden for a century beneath the French countryside</u>
July 18, 2014	<i>Le Monde</i>	<u>Sélection hebdomadaire du centenaire (Numéro 16)</u>
July 17, 2014	<i>Smart Photography Magazine</i>	<u>The Hidden World of WWI</u>
July 16, 2014	<i>Colorado News Today</i>	<u>Voices from the depths of hell: Photos show messages of love, faith and patriotism carved into walls of vast network of tunnels where men lived and died during the First World War</u>

July 16, 2014	<i>War History Online</i>	The Hidden World of WWI Reveals Groundbreaking Discovery
July 16, 2014	<i>The Daily Mail</i>	Voices from the depths of hell: Photos show messages of love, faith and patriotism carved into walls of vast network of tunnels where men lived and died during the First World War
July 15, 2014	<i>CBS 11 – KTVT</i>	New Art Collection Uncovers Hidden World of World War I
July 14, 2014	<i>World War One Historical Association</i>	The Hidden World of WWI: Jeff Gusky
October 2009	<i>Nexos</i>	La Sión sobre el Río Bravo
April 2009	<i>Artnet</i>	Top Twenty Shows: "Of Life and Loss the Polish Photographs of Roman Vishniac and Jeffrey Gusky"
November 20, 2008	<i>Santa Barbara Independent</i>	Of Life and Loss: The Polish Photographs of Roman Vishniac and Jeffery Gusky
October 2, 2008	<i>KERA: Art & Seek</i>	Think Video: Border Town Photography
February 2004	<i>Hadassah</i>	Photographs That Speak Loudly
December 17, 2003	<i>PBS Newshour</i>	Silent Places
November 9, 2003	<i>The Sunday Journal</i>	Contemporary photos an echo of Jewish life in pre-Holocaust Poland.
November, 2003	<i>Dallas Medical Journal</i>	A doctor fights death and destruction with a camera
September 8, 2001	<i>The Dallas Morning News</i>	“So much history left” Dallas Dallas doctor’s photography recalls Jewish life in Poland

August 27, 2001

The Mercury

“Murder has an Address”
Gusky’s collection brings
Holocaust to UTD

August 26, 2001

The Dallas Morning News

Shadows of a Culture

IMAGE GALLERY



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Additional images for Media available at
<http://jeffgusky.com/press-room/>

TESTIMONIALS

“The photos are significant because I know of nothing comparable. We have letters and journals and interviews and trench art but nothing exactly like this. Whether they engraved their initials or created a complete sculpture, they were expressing their identities and emotions. It is impossible not to connect with them.

“Jeff’s photos give us insight into the soldiers of all nations who served on the Western Front, but in a medium few of us have ever seen or even imagined: their graffiti, if you will, on the walls of their underground homes. He has captured their street art, their folk art, and the things they thought important to express, from humor to fear to faith.”

Dr. Paul H. Herbert, Executive Director of the First Division Museum at Cantigny, Wheaton, IL

“Historians will see the cultural relevance of the symbols. They show that some men relied on religion, others on nationalism, and others still on more modern beliefs to cope with the war.

“These fascinating photographs reveal a hidden, subterranean world that puts a new face on the ‘troglodyte’ world of the trenches that Paul Fussell and others so eloquently described.”

Dr. Michael S. Neiberg, Author of *Dance of the Furies: Europe and the Outbreak of World War I*

“I think the images bring the war to life. For many people – especially Americans – the First World War is a distant and forgotten episode and as such it's easy to be abstract, to overlook the human cost of the war. By bringing the stories of these individuals to the forefront of the war's history, Jeff Gusky helps us see what it was really like for those who lived through it.”

Dr. Christopher Capozzola, Associate Professor of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Author of *Uncle Sam Wants You: WWI and the Making of the Modern American Citizen*

“Jeff’s photos tell us what the common soldier was thinking about. A little cog in a large machine wanted to make his mark; that he was there and was a real person.”

Brigadier General Leonid Kondratiuk, Former Chief Historian, National Guard Bureau

“(The) images have a very important weight, historical, documental and of course aesthetic. They relate an important and new approach to the 1st WW.”

Marta Ponsa, Artistic Director, Galerie nationale du Jeu de Paume

PRESS RELEASES

ONLINE VIDEO PRESS RELEASE AVAILABLE AT:

<http://vimeo.com/100174215>



The Hidden World of WWI Reveals Groundbreaking Discovery

Dallas Doctor, Artist and Explorer Uncovers Powerful, Emotional and Inspiring Inscriptions by WWI Soldiers

Never Before Seen

VIDEO PRESS RELEASE AVAILABLE AT:

<https://vimeo.com/100174215>

DALLAS (July 14, 2014)...When photographer Jeffrey Gusky, M.D., FACEP, was given exclusive access to record all but forgotten underground cities of World War I lying beneath private farms in France, he had no idea what to expect or the impact it would have on others. Now captured in thousands of striking images, Gusky has titled the collection [The Hidden World of WWI](#). The beautiful art and emotionally charged inscriptions, carved in stone by WWI soldiers, have been virtually untouched for almost 100 years. They are a direct human connection between then and now.



Gusky, a Dallas emergency physician, fine-art photographer and explorer, is believed to be the first person ever to bring to light the large number of underground cities beneath the trenches of WWI. *The Hidden World of WWI* reveals the artifacts, sculptures and evocative graffiti left behind by soldiers on both sides of the conflict.

Landowners determined to preserve the past have zealously protected these underground treasures for decades.

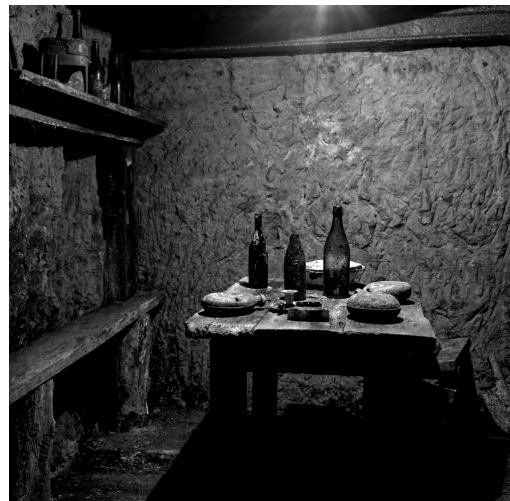
"Seeing these subterranean cities for the first time was one of the most moving experiences of my life," Gusky says. "Finding hundreds and hundreds of messages to the future, written by soldiers in their own hand, made time seem to stand still. I feel a tremendous responsibility to the people who trusted me enough to share their secrets about these places. It was also amazing to realize that while some people knew about some of these spaces, no one knew about all of them."



While visiting France to photograph another project, Gusky had a chance meeting with a French official – which resulted in his first meetings with local WWI enthusiasts and several land owners along the Western Front. Gusky's passion for the story and his commitment to protecting these hidden treasures earned their trust and eventually led to encounters with many more people who helped him find and photograph dozens of underground cities.

"To witness the inner thoughts and feelings of the soldiers, carved in stone, was more than inspiring; it was almost spiritual," Gusky explains. "My goal was to capture this outpouring of human emotion and help make World War I real and relevant to people today."

One of the first soldier's carvings the Dallas photographer saw was a perfectly executed, museum-quality relief sculpture of a classic woman's face chiseled into the wall of an obscure underground quarry. At that moment he knew he had stumbled onto an important story that could touch people around the world during the 100-year anniversary of WWI.



He spent a total of six months exploring miles and miles of these underground spaces. The often treacherous work was performed in complete darkness and sometimes required him to crawl on hands and knees through tight spaces, over jagged rocks, and to lean down over ledges, balancing his camera in one hand. Additional perils in the form of unexploded hand grenades and live artillery shells were common.

Gusky found thousands of works of art, graffiti and inscriptions by German, French, British, American, Canadian, Polish, Hungarian, Australian, New Zealand, Chinese, African and even New Zealand Maori soldiers, among others. In at least one instance, it was clear that three different armies had occupied the same underground city over the course of the war. While they left their mark in different languages, their graffiti and artwork was less about war and politics and more about home and loved ones.

Gusky is strongly committed to preserve and protect these treasures in France. "I'm a man on a mission. I hope these images will change the way we think about WWI and that they will be protected for future generations. *The Hidden World of WWI* gives us a glimpse into the humanity of individual soldiers who refused to be silenced in the face of modern warfare. Men from both sides declared themselves as human beings who could think, feel, express and create, and who remind us today that they were here, that they once existed as living, breathing human beings."

Gusky's discoveries and photographs are featured in the August 2014 issue of *National Geographic, The Hidden World of the Great War*.

Images from *The Hidden World of WWI* can be found at www.JeffGusky.com. Follow *The Hidden World of WWI* on Twitter <https://twitter.com/hiddenwwi> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HiddenWWI>.

About the Artist

Jeffrey Gusky, M.D., FACEP, lives two lives – one as a rural emergency physician and the other as a fine-art photographer and explorer.

Gusky's first year of medical school at the University of Washington was spent in Alaska as part of the WAMI Program, created to inspire students to become country doctors. Gusky graduated high in his class and was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha, the National Honor Medical Society. He combined his love of flying and rural medicine and used his plane to reach remote hospital emergency rooms on short notice throughout Texas and Oklahoma. Since 1991, he has taught trauma skills to other physicians as an instructor in the Advanced Trauma Life Support program and is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Two books of black-and-white photography, multiple national exhibitions including the pairing of his work with the Spanish master Francisco de Goya and the legendary early 20th Century photographer Roman Vishniac, inclusion in a Broadway play and the honor of a Gusky traveling exhibition being ranked by *Artnet Magazine* on its 2009 list of the top 20 museum shows in America mark Gusky's fine-art career. He explores the world – photographing pieces of the past that can help us discover who we are and which inspire us to ask questions about the vulnerabilities of modern life that we have forgotten how to ask.

Media: Downloadable images available at <http://jeffgusky.com/press-room/>

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**New Image Captures Unknown WWI German Tribute
to Fallen French Soldier**
**Dr. Jeff Gusky Releases *The Hidden World of World War I* to
Mark the 100th Anniversary of the Beginning of the War**

DALLAS (July 31, 2014)--To mark the launch of the 100th anniversary World War I, photographer Dr. Jeff Gusky is releasing a never-before-seen photograph of an original wartime plaque crafted by German soldiers in honor of a French soldier who died and was buried directly in front of their trench. The photograph is part of Gusky's just-released collection: [The Hidden World of World War I](#).



Located inside an original German front line trench, the tribute reads, "Here lies a French combatant". The term "combatant" conveys respect for the fallen French soldier while the cross at the bottom of the plaque expresses reverence for a noble adversary; sentiments which seem out-of-place in a theater of slaughter.

Jeff Gusky tells the story of this photograph in this video:

<https://vimeo.com/100177689>

Gusky photographed this plaque in 2014, in a remote sector of the Vosges Mountain battlefield of Hartmannswillerkopf where more than 30,000 soldiers died. And while deaths were commonplace, memorializing the enemy – particularly with such dignity – was not. Gusky has conferred with experts who believe that this plaque is the only such tribute in existence along the entire Western Front.

On August 3, 2014, French President François Hollande and German President Joachim Gauck will launch the 100th anniversary of World War I with a handshake over the former front line at Hartmannswillerkopf, demonstrating the peace and mutual respect that the two countries enjoy today. Jeff Gusky's photograph is a visual icon of that handshake.

This groundbreaking image comes from Jeff Gusky's search for hidden remnants of WWI and is part of a collection of over 2,000 photographs titled [The Hidden World of WWI](#). The Dallas photographer and emergency physician spent several years cultivating relationships with local WWI experts and landowners all along the Western Front to gain access to never-before-seen traces of the war. He has photographed miles of subterranean spaces and obscure artifacts on the surface, gaining valuable insight into the inner lives of soldiers from many nations.

All but unknown to the outside world, soldiers from both sides of the conflict left messages to the future in ancient underground rock quarries that were converted to subterranean cities beneath the trenches. Tens of thousands of men lived in these cities underground. They created breathtaking works of art and inscribed emotional graffiti that have survived to the present as if 100 years was yesterday.

Like this awe-inspiring tribute by front line German soldiers to a fallen French adversary, all of Jeff Gusky's work challenges the modern viewer to see past stereotypes and engage with the personal testimonies soldiers carved in stone a century ago.

Gusky observed that what the soldiers left behind is "less about war, and more about how they struggled to remain human while living through the world's first modern destruction." While the details of the story behind the German plaque honoring the life of a fallen French soldier have likely been lost to history, the impulse to commemorate a noble death – even in the midst of the horrors of battle – provides a glimpse into the humanity of the soldiers, even as they engaged in mass destruction.

Jeff Gusky's discoveries and photographs are featured in the August 2014 issue of [National Geographic Magazine: The Hidden World of the Great War](#).

Images from *The Hidden World of WWI* can be found at www.JeffGusky.com. Follow *The Hidden World of WWI* on Twitter <https://twitter.com/hiddenwwi>, Instagram <http://instagram.com/hiddenwwi> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HiddenWWI>.

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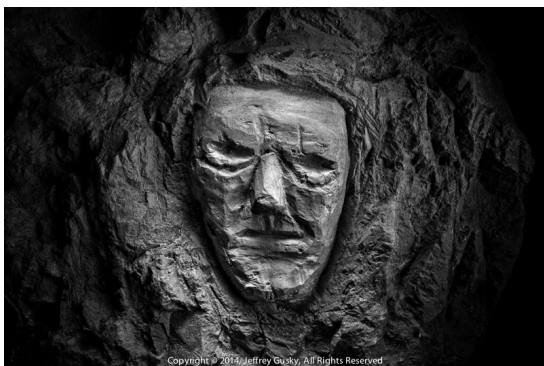
Media: Downloadable images available <http://jeffgusky.com/press-room/>

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100-Year-Old Underground Cities Never Seen Before Dr. Jeff Gusky Shares His Amazing Discovery with the World

DALLAS (August 13, 2014)... Hidden beneath the French countryside are miles of mysterious and all but forgotten [underground cities](#), lying in complete darkness and frozen in time. For the last 100 years, only the landowners and a few history enthusiasts have known these spaces. The subterranean cities are filled with beautiful art, inspiring inscriptions and thousands of names left behind by WWI soldiers from both sides of the conflict who occupied the spaces at various times. In many cases, records show that men wrote or inscribed their names only to die in battle hours or days later. It may have been the last time these soldiers signed their own names.

Jeff Gusky, M.D., FACEP, a Dallas-based emergency physician, fine art photographer and explorer, is believed to be the first person ever to bring to light the large number of underground cities through his photographs, revealing the abundance of artifacts, sculptures and graffiti hidden there. With thousands of striking images, the public now has the opportunity to see what Gusky saw — his haunting black-and-white photographs reflect what the soldiers were thinking and feeling as they dealt with the first examples of modern warfare and mass destruction. They expressed longings for home or religious beliefs or simply provided much-needed creative outlets — a degree of what passed for normalcy when what they were living through was anything but normal. At times the men were stopped in the middle of whatever they were doing when called to action.



The photographer spent a total of six months exploring miles of these underground spaces. The often treacherous work was performed in complete darkness and sometimes required him to crawl on hands and knees through tight spaces, over jagged rocks, and to lean down over ledges, balancing his camera in one hand. He had to exercise caution around the numerous unexploded

hand grenades and live artillery shells he encountered.

Gusky states, "The first carving I saw was a museum quality image of a woman's head, which was absolutely stunning. It took time for me to realize that the soldiers of WWI came from all walks of life — artists and poets, cooks and mechanics, doctors and lawyers. Literally every profession was represented in the troops. So, of course, their carvings and inscriptions ran the gamut from simple expressions of "I was here" to beautiful works of art.

"My mission is to two-fold: to bring these images to light through my photography and to help the landowners protect them for posterity."

Gusky has released the images in a series called *The Hidden World of WWI*, which can be found at www.JeffGusky.com. Follow *The Hidden World of WWI* on Twitter <https://twitter.com/hiddenwwi> on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HiddenWWI>, Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/jeffgusky>, or on Instagram at <http://instagram.com/hiddenww>.

His discoveries and photographs are featured in the August 2014 issue of *National Geographic*, *The Hidden World of the Great War*.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What did you discover about WWI?

A: I found and photographed vast underground cities which are all but unknown along the Western Front in France. They were created in centuries-old rock quarries from which stone was mined for cathedrals, castles and fortresses. They lie under privately owned farm land, so while some people knew about some of them, no one knew about all of them. The spaces contain breathtaking graffiti, art, street signs and plaques in French, English, German, Chinese and a number of other languages. WWI brought together able-bodied men from every walk of life and from around the globe, including artists, poets, professors, brick-layers, laborers, cooks and every other conceivable profession. As a group, they possessed a tremendous range of talents. Some of them created masterful works of art, the likes of which have not been seen in our lifetime. For the past century, these underground cities adorned with beautiful carvings and emotionally-charged graffiti have remained hidden in complete darkness. They are *The Hidden World of WWI* and a direct human connection between then and now.

Q: Where are these underground spaces and how can people visit them?

A: This is going to be hard for many people to hear, but most of the spaces are protected by landowners and historical associations and won't be open to tourists. There are a couple of reasons for this. First, some are very dangerous. Live, unexploded ordnance still lies on the ground. In many cases, there's risk that the ceilings will collapse, trapping or killing people who may be inside. Second, they are targets for serious vandalism or theft. Already, I have photographed priceless sculptures that have been defaced because whoever took the last photo of them wanted to have the only original version, and worse I've found evidence of outright theft. Finally, many of the locations are under working farms and other private land; the landowners want to protect their privacy and do not want to take on the extreme risk that non-professional visitors might occasion.

Q: How can I get involved in protecting the spaces?

A: My team and I plan to create a forum where people from across the globe can become whistle blowers if they should see any of these priceless WWI carvings for sale on auction sites or in galleries or if they hear about or witness theft or vandalism of these WWI treasures. Please visit www.facebook.com/HiddenWWI for information.

Q: What do the photographs look like?

A: The photographs are black-and-white images shot in total darkness. By raking a strong light source across the surface of the sculptures they seem to come alive. These photographs reveal a startling array of sophisticated carvings, many of which could be considered museum-quality art.

Q: How did the discovery come about?

A: I have photographed a number of other projects around the world through my personal quest to understand why modern mass destruction still exists and have developed a reputation for being highly sensitive to the subject matter and the people who introduce me to it. On a 2011 trip to France, I had a chance meeting with an official from the French Ministry of Defense who was in charge of planning the WWI Centennial. Upon learning of my interest in WWI, he and his staff introduced me to key local officials along the Western Front. Over time, I was fortunate to develop close personal friendships with local WWI enthusiasts who share my vision of leaving a photographic legacy of *The Hidden World of WWI*.

Q: Why is this discovery important?

A: First, the amazing beauty of the sculptures and the emotional power of soldiers' inscriptions, left for all of us by WWI soldiers, is astonishing. Second, these carvings have not been seen in one place...in one collection of photographs, ever. But most importantly, these were people who were just like us. They were modern. They loved baseball, lived in high rise buildings, drove cars and watched movies. They went to plays and concerts. The everyday routine of their modern lives was suddenly turned upside down in a way that no one saw coming. They were the first witnesses to the dark side of modern progress, the first modern mass destruction, where the technologies that make modern life possible were used to destroy life on a scale that was, and still is, inconceivable. In the face of unspeakable violence, where the value of an individual human life seemed to evaporate, they defiantly expressed their humanity with eloquence and passion.

Q: What reaction do you hope people will have?

A: I hope viewers will stop, really see the images and ponder the hard questions about modern life we have almost forgotten how to ask – questions about how modern life affects our humanness. There is much to discover and learn about our lives from WWI. I also hope that families of WWI veterans and people interested in researching the personal histories of individual soldiers will get involved in sharing stories of the thousands of men whose names are inscribed on these quarry walls. Original family photos would be an incredible addition to the project. To participate by sharing stories, research or photos, please visit www.facebook.com/HiddenWWI.

Q: Why are you making the announcement now?

A: With the anniversary of the start of WWI in early August, the timing is perfect.

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