

FEB 14-16, 2020, Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 W. 18th St., NYC

“A HUMAN BEING IS A REMARKABLE THING”

EXHIBIT

Exhibit on the wartime writings of Dutch-Jewish woman Etty Hillesum (1941-1943)

Portrait of Etty Hillesum. Place, date and photographer unknown. Public Domain. Source: nationaalarchief.nl.



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NEW YORK
ENCOUNTER

Exhibit Presentation:

SATURDAY, FEB 15, 2020, 1:15 PM
SECOND FLOOR AUDITORIUM

www.newyorkencounter.org

The year is 1941. In Amsterdam, Etty Hillesum, a young, emancipated, secular Jewish woman starts keeping a diary at the request of her therapist. She scrupulously records her every thought, change in mood, and the often banal events that punctuate her daily life. As the Nazi occupiers of the Netherlands impose increasingly harsh measures on Dutch Jews, however, Etty realizes that she also needs to make sense of the outside world and its frightening **reality**.

This exhibit documents Etty's extraordinary journey to her core, where she discovered a sense of meaning, not just in her own life, but of life itself in an increasingly strong sense of the presence of God. In the conflagration of war and mass murder, this young woman remained determinedly free. She responded to the horrors of her time with a growing desire to love and embrace every aspect of life, from the rare cup of coffee that could be found during wartime, to the flowers of the Westerbork transport camp, where she volunteered to serve her fellow Jews as they waited to be sent to the extermination camps in Poland, to the very people who sent her to her death. In the face of what she herself called "hell," Etty wrote to her friends that, nonetheless, "a human being is a remarkable thing."

Open to the public

Free of charge

No registration required