



10. The Vanished

Alexandre Mitchell, 2022 (42 x 59cm, Indian ink)



Head of Demeter [copy of an original (marble) from the 4th c. BC, from excavations at the University of Thessalonica at Dion]

The painting shows the White Tower of Thessaloniki standing submerged in guilt as Jewish tombstones resurface from its past. Thessaloniki's Jewish community with roots stretching back 2,000 years, made up half the city before 1939. In contrast to the goddess Demeter, whose head was found in the Macedonian sanctuary of Dion in the shadow of Mount Olympus, who brought life from below the ground, those who had turned Thessaloniki into a vibrant, cosmopolitan city were forever torn out of their land. The Nazis' deportations of Jews turned Thessaloniki into a city of ghosts.