Reconstructing Perceptions of Civic Memory

Jeremy Kargon, Architect + Assistant Professor Morgan State University

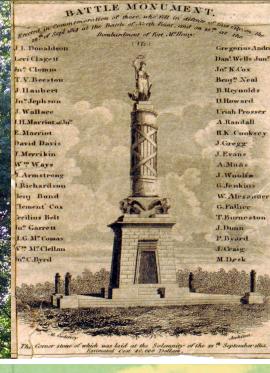




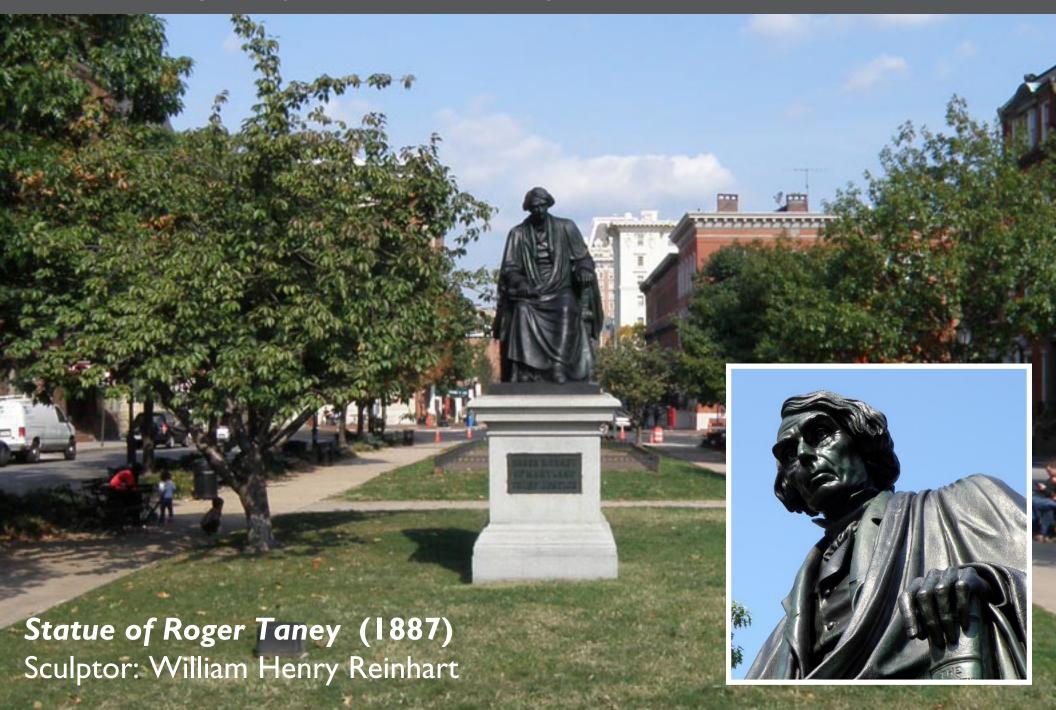












Changing Monuments and Monumentality Reconstructing Perceptions of Civic Memory



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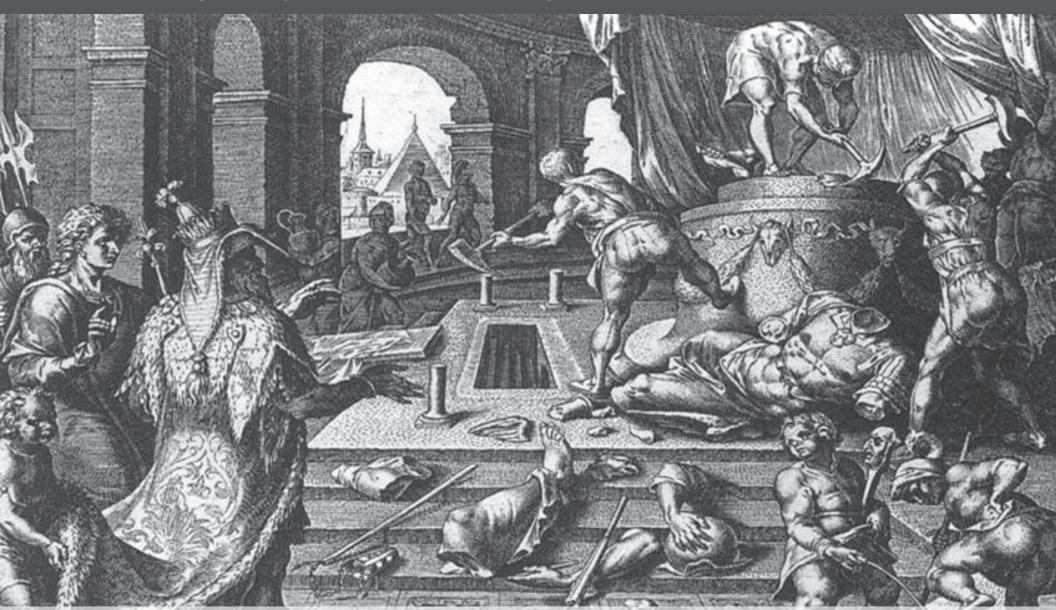
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Typical Approaches to Controversial Monuments:

Removal
Re-contextualization
"Musealization"
Counter-Speech

(... or do nothing)

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REMOVAL: Destruction of the Statue of Bel (1565)

Engraving after Maarten van Heemskerck

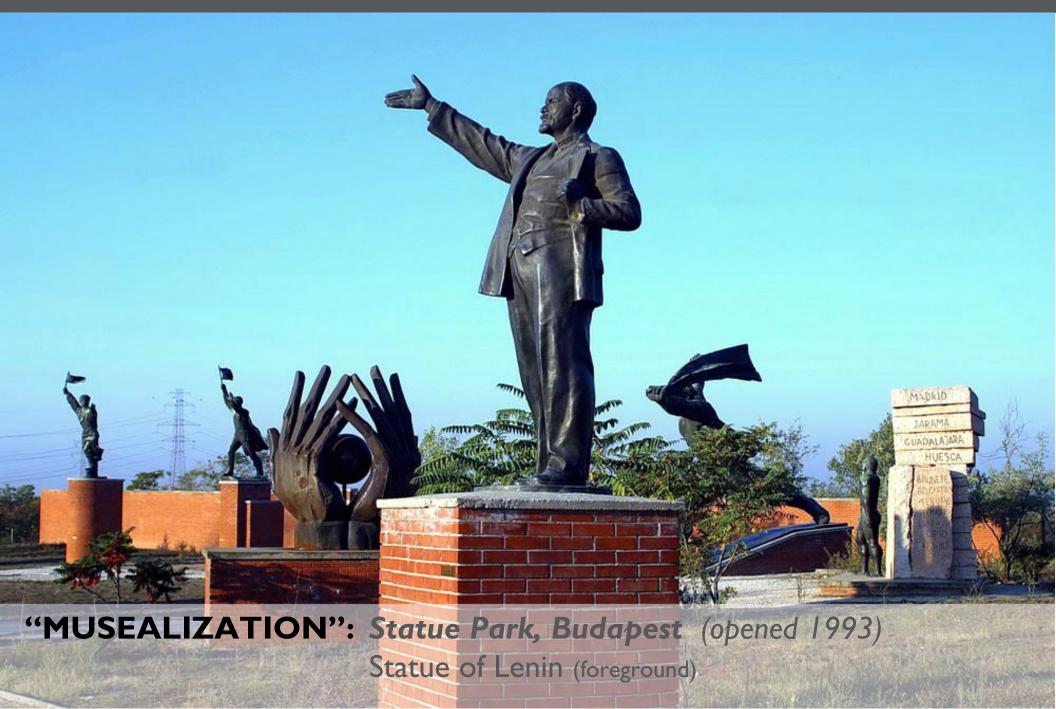
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RE-CONTEXTUALIZATION

Obelisks at Karnak; Obelisk at the Vatican





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COUNTER SPEECH: Statues along Monument Avenue, Richmond Robert E. Lee, J. E. B. Stuart, & Arthur Ashe

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Charles DeGaulle at the Statue of Lafayette (1960)

Photographer: Paul Schutzer (Life Magazine)

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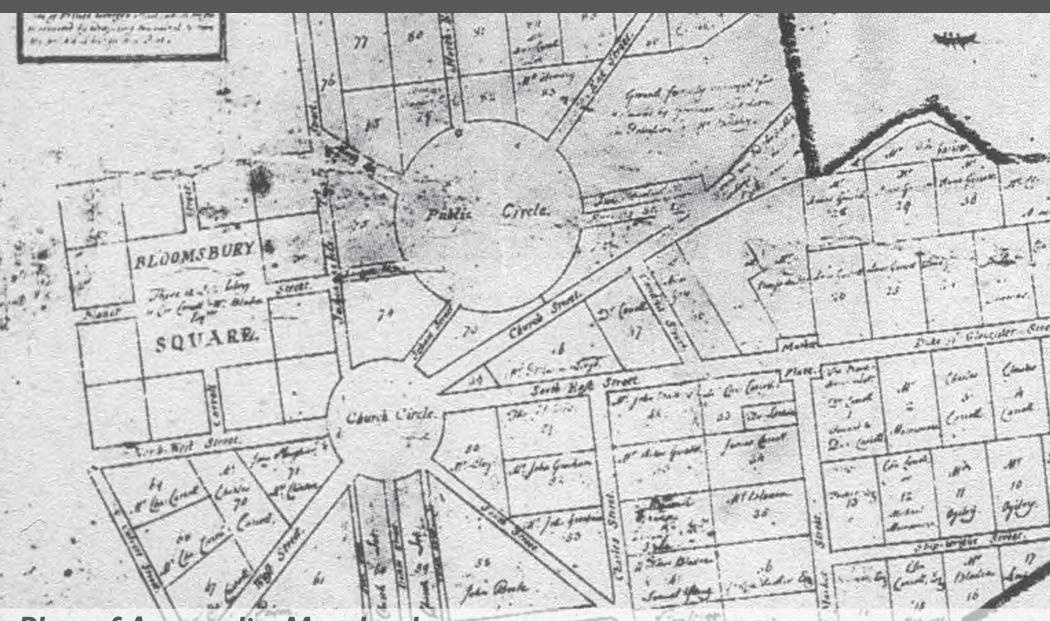
Landscape as the Medium for Interpretation

Allen Carlson, *Nature and Landscape* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009)

Daniels and Cosgrove, *The Iconography of Landscape* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988).

Duncan and Ley, *Place / Culture / Representation* (New York: Routledge, 1994).

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Plan of Annapolis, Maryland

Map attributed to James Stoddert (1743 manuscript copy of 1718 original)

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Meta narrative

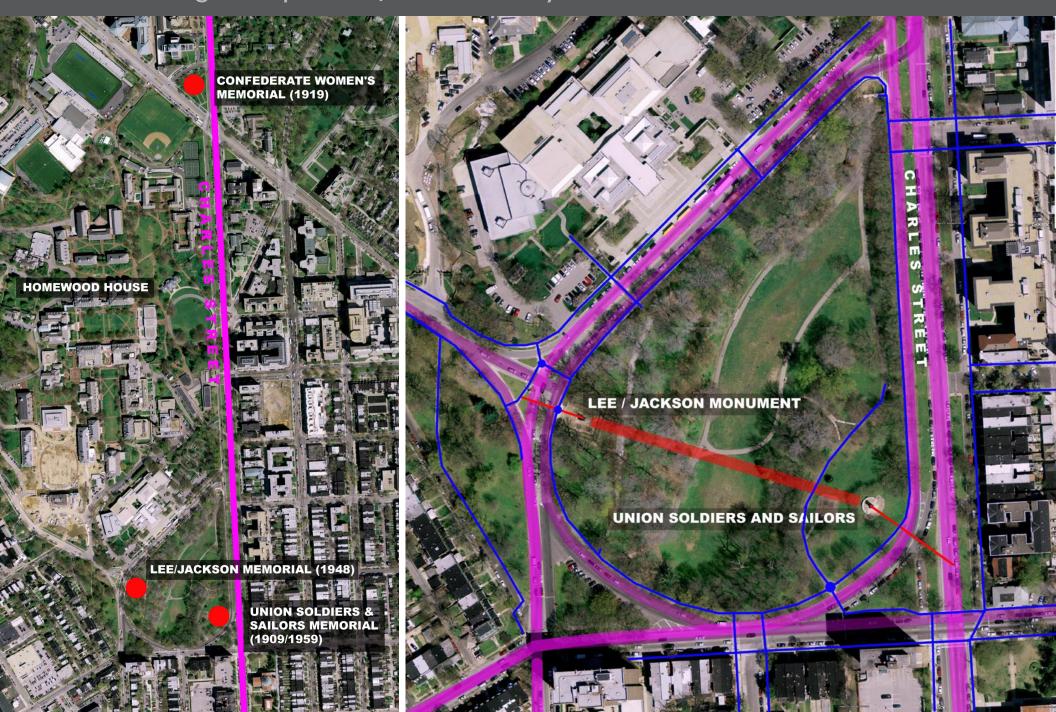
Arranging multiple monuments' spatial relationships to reflect, as far as possible, the current social consensus about the historical record, including the acknowledgement of competing messages, memories, or justifications







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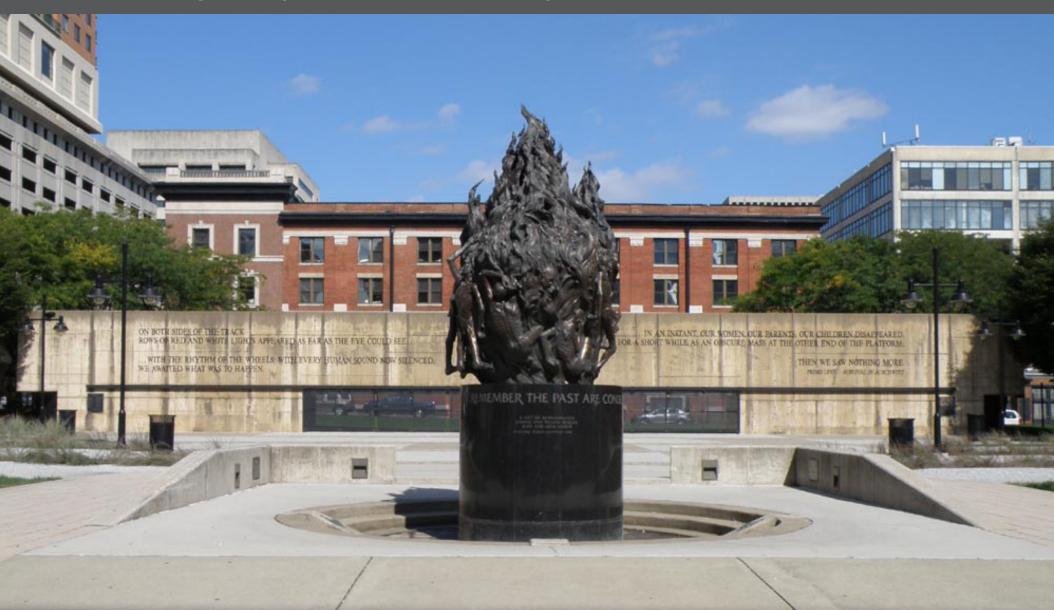


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Intra contextualization

To configure a monument site's greater integration with the active life of its city surroundings, not merely to provide different surroundings simply for experience of the monument itself.

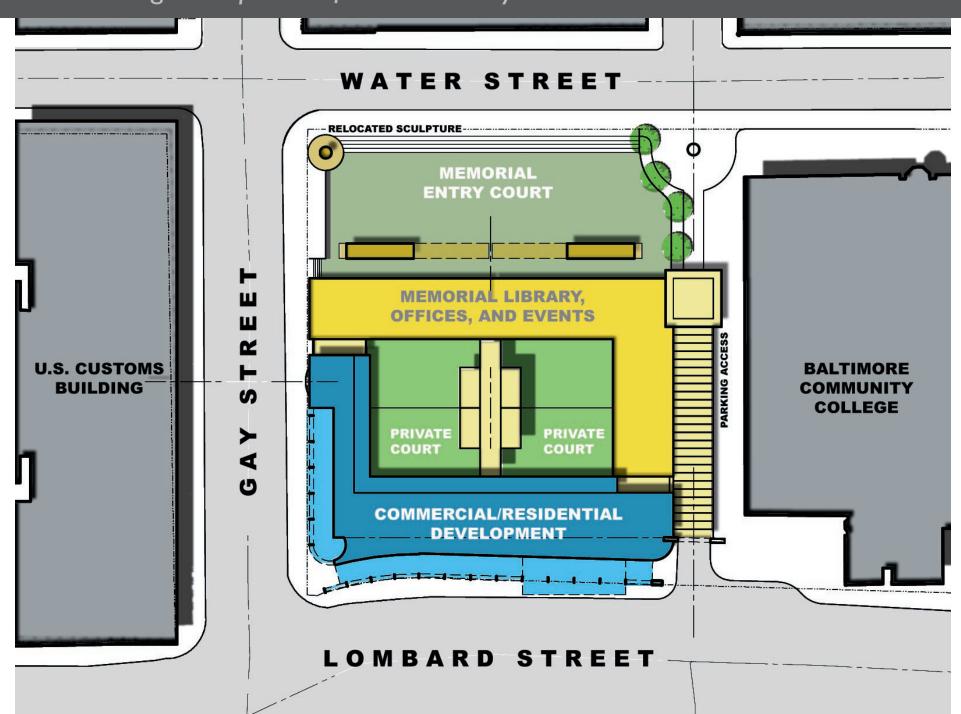
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Baltimore Holocaust Memorial and Sculpture

Kann & Valk (1980); Joseph Sheppard (1988); RCG Architects (1997)

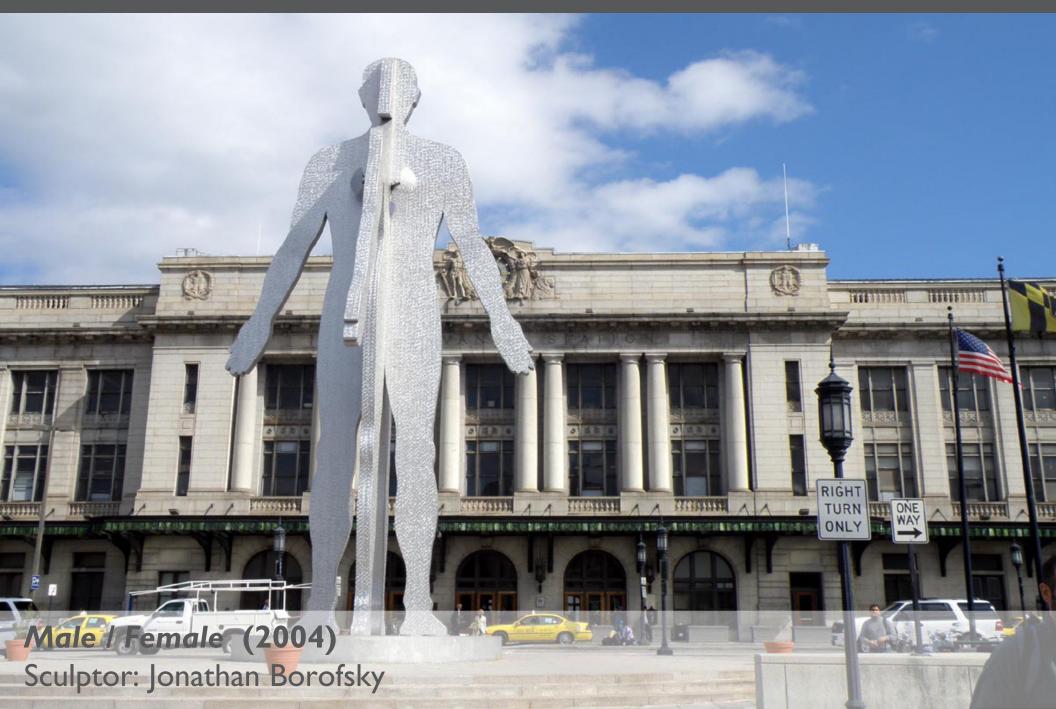




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de musealization

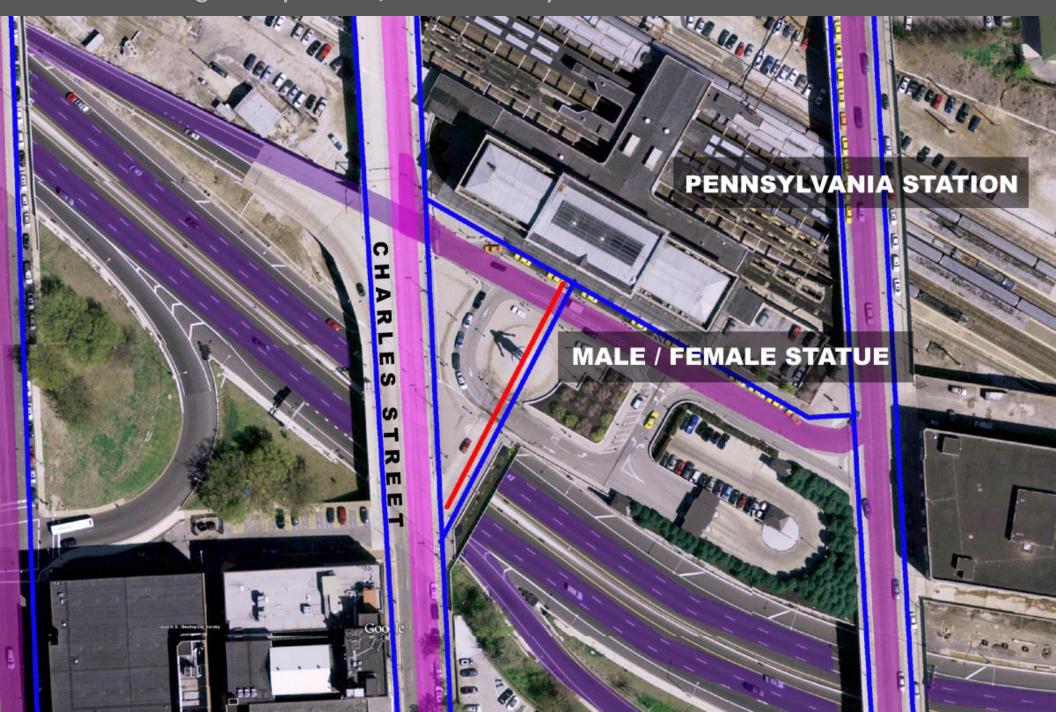
To disassociate monumentally-scaled contemporary art from the framework of art-critical discussion both verbally and spatially.



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To design for the city is an ethical act.

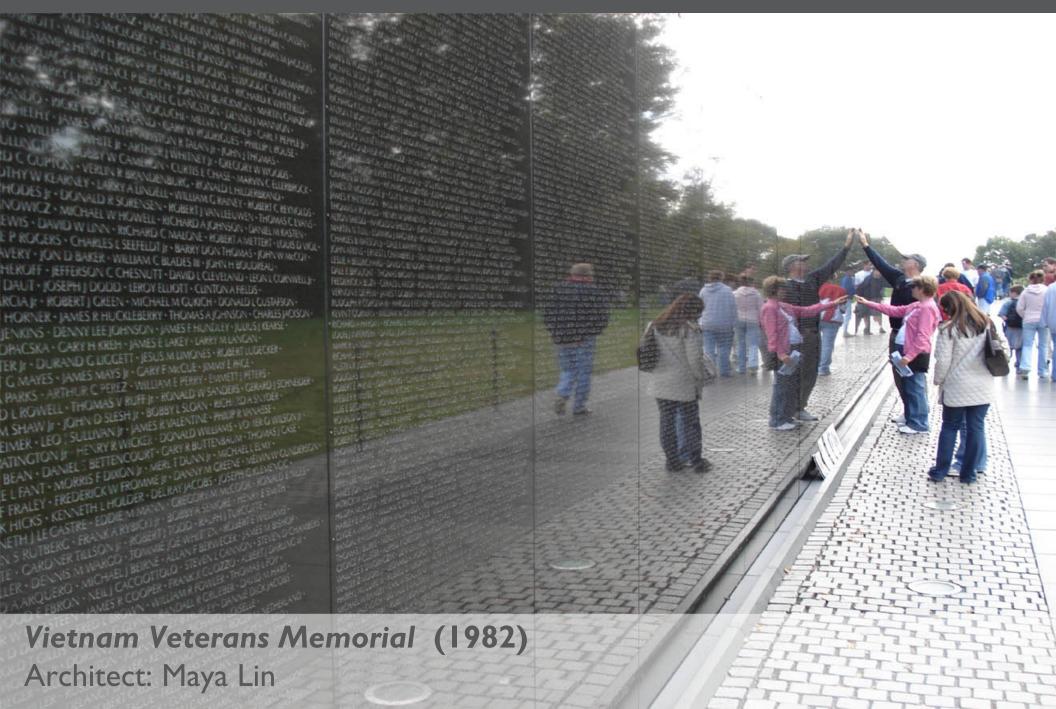
Ethics, and the political values which they influence, are fundamental for our ability to share common spaces and to perceive together those markers in our midst: our monuments.



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In short, monuments ought also to try a little harder, as we must all do nowadays! - Robert Musil, "Monuments"

from Posthumous Papers of a Living Author, trans. Peter Wortsman (Hygiene, Colorado: Eridanos Press, 1987).



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