

The MONUMENT

“I am the city” as a theme, suggests radicalism, arrogance and especially confidence. We could only imagine it to be put into words by an emperor, ruler or dictator from earlier civilizations. Ancestors or followers erected physical evidence in the form of monuments in order to commemorate that person or the event he was responsible for. For example, the more than 2000 statues of Chairman Mao across Chinese university campuses, the Pyramids as tombstones for the pharaohs in Egypt or the never realized *Monument to the Third International* of Vladimir Tatlin.

Monuments build by people, for people where erected in honor of ... as a memorial. But intentionally or unintentionally those monuments often came to be the symbol of a moment of change, an endpoint or the start of a new era. For example the build up and destruction of the Berlin Wall, the forgotten monuments – Spomeniks – scattered across the mountains of former Yugoslavia. Or even the abandoned Star Wars movie sets in the deserts of North Africa, which now appear like a strange archaeological site or an unofficial monument to Hollywood’s glorious past.

Illustrated by the previous examples, the word “Monument” – derived as it is from the Latin *monere*, meaning, “to remind or warn” – is undoubtedly connected with the past. Paradoxically, for this workshop, we will ask you to investigate/approach the monument more immediate and intimate. Within the thin fabric of Los Angeles you will be asked to find the

object, space, or site that could function as YOUR monument. During the workshop, your chosen monument will be the artifact and tool to contextualize yourself within the theme: I AM THE CITY.

Cédric van Parys & Lu Liang

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1802 – Chateaubriand (Romanticism)

A monument is only venerable in so much as a long history of the past has imprinted the black of centuries on its vaults.

1903 – Alois Riegl (First intension to obtain a law to preserve monuments)

Monuments in the sense of this law are works of the human hand since whose inception at least sixty years have passed.

2015 – Oxford Dictionary.

A building, structure, or site that is of historical importance or interest.

2015 – Otis Design Week

An object, structure, building or site that is of personal and immediate importance to the observer.

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Friday June 5

Students will receive references and external reading, and the first assignment: TASK 1.

TASK 1:
FIND YOUR MONUMENT, TAKE A PICTURE OF IT.

While exploring the city of Los Angeles, you will have to find the object, space or site that could function as your Monument. This can be a site, space, building, object, micro or macro, anything that has a relationship with the city. To capture your Monument, you will have to take a picture. Keep in mind that the picture of your Monument will be the artifact that you will use during the 4 days of the workshop.

Sunday June 21

04:00pm LL&CVP, General introduction of the workshop
05:00pm Students present their pictures from TASK 1
LL&CVP assess the pictures
Introduction of TASK 2

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TASK 2:
MAKE A UNIQUE COPY OF THE MONUMENT BASED ON THE PICTURE YOU HAVE TAKEN.

A) The action of copying will be used as a tool to isolate your Monument from its original context and historical value. You will have to ask yourself several questions such as, what is a copy? Is it a repetition? How do I make my copy unique? Does it have to be an exact copy? Do I consider it a 2D image or a 3D object? What are the tools I have to make the copy? Etc...

B) While copying your Monument, you will have to consider the characteristics of a real Monument such as, is it standing alone, is it an object or a building, what is the scale? How do I make it important, How do I elevate it, and most importantly, how do I make it My Monument?

Monday June 22

10:00am LL&CVP meeting students
Students work on Task 2
(individual talks with students)
06:00pm Group presentation to finalize TASK 2
LL&CVP giving introduction of TASK 3
"Contextualization"

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TASK 3:
CONTEXTUALIZE YOUR MONUMENT.

A Monument doesn't function on its own, it is a starting point, centre point, or end point of an event within a context.

The previous tasks have forced you to isolate your Monument from its original context. Now that the found Monument is Your Monument and completely free from its earlier meanings, we will ask you to create your own context.

A) What is the context or environment that you want your Monument to be positioned in? This context that you are asked to design could be a place, but it can also be a situation, a scenario, a narrative, a movement, a political party etc...

B) While thinking about this context, you will also need to consider the materialization of the whole, How will you present Your Monument within this new environment? It could be tangible like a map, or ephemeral like sound or text or through an action like a game, a film, a performance, a public campaign etc...

Tuesday June 23

10:00am LL&CVP meeting students
Students working TASK 3
(individual talks with students)
06:00pm Group presentation

Wednesday June 24

10:00am LL&CVP meeting students to finalize projects.
05:00pm Final Crit