

Course Synopsis

Monuments are not only an important part of the culture of remembrance, but are also erected for future generations. Nevertheless, they are often destroyed, become victims of wars, vandalism and political upheavals.

While currently statues of colonizers are falling, Contemporary Art in public space is increasingly becoming a soft location factor in city marketing. The noble claim of 'art for all' no longer applies; rather, art functions as an instrument of homogenization and staging in the capitalist interest of the ruling growth coalition.

Against this background, we want to look into the context of urban development/new urbanity, activism within the arts, and the function of art institutions. Using the theories of Pierre Bourdieu and Henri Lefebvre, we will investigate what develops new criteria of evaluation, which are then applied to different art projects in order to open up a perspective for the creation of free spaces and thus complement the prevailing paradigm of the city.

Predispositions

Students who are interested in the links between culture and politics, art's critical role under late-stage capitalism, and its democratic potentials. Students working in all media welcome.

Literature (excerpts will be provided)

What About Activism? Edited by Steven Henry Madoff – Sternberg Press

Delirium and Resistance – Gregory Sholette

One Place after Another – Sitespecific Art and Locational Identity – Miwon Kwon

Written in Stone: Public Monuments in Changing Societies – Sanford Levinson

Learning from Las Vegas – Denise Scott & Robert Venturi

I Am a Monument – On Learning from Las Vegas – Aron Vinegar

The Production of Space – Henri Lefebvre

Society of the Spectacle – Guy Debord

Symbolic Power, Politics & Intellectuals - The political sociology of Pierre Bourdieu – David L. Swartz

Urban Potentials - Ideas & Practice. Rotterdam Salzburg Wrocław Budapest Dresden

more TBA.

Links

<https://www.e-flux.com/architecture/monument/360803/antagonisms-of-memory-in-post-maidan-kyiv/>

<https://www.versobooks.com/blogs/4765-truth-and-lies-and-monuments>

<https://www.artforum.com/print/196801/oldenburg-s-monuments-36655>

<https://www.artforum.com/print/202009/paul-b-preciado-84375>

Structure

Monthly meetings will span over one week. We will discuss texts, watch films, look at different artistic positions and debate, accompanied by excursions to public art in Brno. If students are interested, we can think of a collective project in public space at the end of the semester.

A three-day excursion to the german cities Erlangen, Chemnitz and Berlin.

We will look at student's work in both group crits and individual crits. This is unrelated to the semester subject.

Schedule

1 st Week	27.09. – 01.10.2021
2 nd Week	18.10. – 22.10.2021
3 rd Week	08.11. – 12.11.2021 (Excursion)
4 th week	06.12. – 10.12.2021
5 th Week	TBA
6 th Week	TBA