

***Rethink & Reload – Monuments in 21st Century Democracies
Between Iconoclasm and Revival***

The conference will be documented by graphicrecording.cool as well as with video and photography by Team Zitadelle. The event will only take place IRL (no online livestream available). The conference is free of charge but participants are asked to register by emailing: anmeldung@zitadelle-berlin.de.

After each panel, there will be time for discussion.

DAY 1: RETHINK

Thursday, 29 June 2023

9:30 Registration

10:00 Warming up with *Monumental Bag*

The *Monumental Bag* is a participatory project by the Goethe-Institute Washington. It allows to playfully engage with the conference themes and offers the conference participants to get to know each other. Arrive in time!

10:45 Welcome, Introduction & Practical Information by the Conference Organizers

Urte Evert (Zitadelle Spandau) & Tanja Schult (Stockholm University):
“Making Monuments Matter in 21st Century Democracies”

11:15 Monumental Matters

Introduction & Moderator: Tanja Schult (Stockholm University)
Key-note by Marie-Luisa Frick (Innsbruck University):
“Monument Contestation and the Interminable Negotiation of Democratic Public Space”

12:00 Coffee break

12:15 What’s at Stake?

Introduction & Moderator: Tim Cole (University of Bristol)
Key-note by Erin L. Thompson (City University of New York):

“The Long Last Stand of American Public Monuments”

13:00 Lunch Break

Possibility to visit the current exhibitions at the citadel (self-guided):

- *Unveiled. Berlin and its Monuments.*
- *Bismarck-Fight – Cult Figure and Monument Toppling in an Interactive Exhibition*

14:30 What's Going On?

Introduction & Moderator: Stephan Lehnstaedt (Touro University Berlin)

Statements:

- Urte Evert (Zitadelle Spandau): **New Displays**
- Paul Farber (Monument Lab Philadelphia): **New Themes**
- Tanja Schult (Stockholm University): **New Forms**

16:00 Coffee Break

16:30 New Themes, Designs & Forms of Co-operations

Introduction & Moderator: Rebecka Katz Thor (Stockholm University)

Statements:

- Jeannette Ehlers (Artist, Copenhagen)
- christoph mayer chm (Artist, Berlin)
- Françoise Schein (Artist, Paris)
- Albert Weis (Artist, Berlin)

18:00 Dinner Break

19:00 Film Night

Screening of two short films followed by a discussion moderated by Johanna Riedel (Zitadelle Spandau)

- Anna Jermolaew, *Leninopad* (2017)
- Atlanta History Center, *Monument: The Untold Story of Stone Mountain* (2023)

DAY 2: RELOAD

Friday 30 June 2023

- 9:30** **Coffee**
- 10:00** **What Needs to Change?**
Problematic Monuments' Afterlives between Protests, Preservation and Protection
Introduction & Moderator: Urte Evert (Zitadelle Spandau)
Statements:
 - Gabi Dolff-Bonekämper (Technische Universität Berlin)
 - Tim Cole (University of Bristol)
 - Zhenia Moliar (Technische Universität Berlin)
- 11:30** **Coffee Break**
- 11:45** **Mediating Monuments – Practitioners' Best Practices**
Introduction & Moderator: Tanja Schult (Stockholm University)
Statements:
 - Petra Unger (Cultural Mediator, Vienna)
 - Monumental Bag
- 13:00** **Lunch break**
Possibility to visit the current exhibitions at the citadel (self-guided):
 - *Unveiled. Berlin and its Monuments.*
 - *Bismarck-Fight – Cult Figure and Monument Toppling in an Interactive Exhibition*
- 14:30** **What's the Use of Monuments in 21st Century Democracies?**
Political Mobilization & Transformations of Memorial Landscapes
Introduction & Moderator: Jules Pelta Feldman (Hochschule der Künste, Bern)
Statements:
 - Olaf Nicolai (Artist, Berlin)
 - Nathalie Aghoro (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)
 - Susanne Buckley-Zistel (Philipps University Marburg)
 - Zentrum für Politische Schönheit / Center for Political Beauty (Art Collective, Berlin)

16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:30 **What's Next?**

Summing up and Outlook: Marie-Luisa Frick (Innsbruck University)

The conference ends at 18:00.

PARTICIPANTS

Nathalie Aghoro is a Postdoc in North American Literary and Cultural Studies at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany, and a faculty member of the interdisciplinary DFG research training group “Practicing Place – Socio-Cultural Practices and Epistemic Configurations”. Her research interests are auditory culture, 19th to 21st century literature, and social justice. Her current book project deals with the ties between social justice and situated cultural practices such as the writing, building, and picturing of shared places.

Susanne Buckley-Zistel is Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies and Executive Director of the Centre for Conflict Studies at the Philipps University Marburg, Germany. She has published widely on (transitional) justice, memory studies, gender and feminism, as well as spatial and post-colonial analysis.

Tim Cole is Professor of Social History at the University of Bristol. His research interests include historical and memory landscapes, environmental histories and digital humanities. Cole was the Chair of the History Commission set up by the Mayor of Bristol after the toppling of the Colston statue.

Gabi Dolff-Bonekämper has published widely on monument value and cultural heritage theory, history policies, memory research, architecture and urban planning history of post-war modernism in Europe. Starting off as a monument conservator, she was Professor of Monument Preservation and Urban Cultural Heritage at the TU Berlin for almost 20 years (until 2021). Dolff-Bonekämper was actively involved in debates on the evaluation and preservation of remnants of the Berlin Wall, of controversial political monuments in urban space, and of post-war modernist buildings in East and West Berlin.

Jeannette Ehlers is a Copenhagen-based artist of Danish and Trinidadian descent whose practice takes shape experimentally across photography, video, installation, sculpture and performance. Ehlers’ work often makes use of self-representation and image manipulation to bring about decolonial hauntings and disruptions. These manifestations attend to the material and affective afterlives of Denmark’s colonial impact in the Caribbean and participation in the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Ehlers insists on the possibility for empowerment and healing in her art, honoring legacies of resistance in the African diaspora.

Urte Evert is Director of the Citadel Museums, including the exhibition *Unveiled. Berlin and its Monuments*. In her academic work, she has dealt in particular with thing symbolism and military culture. Since 2017, her main topics include fortress history and problematic memory culture. Dealing with unwanted and toppled monuments as well as “toxic” art in public spaces has become the focus of her museum outreach activities as well as her academic research work.

Paul M. Farber is Director and Co-Founder of Monument Lab. Farber has written and co-edited several books including *A Wall of Our Own: An American History of the Berlin Wall*, *Monument Lab: Creative Speculations on Philadelphia*, and *The National Monument Audit*. He hosts the podcast *The Statue*, and serves as Senior Research Scholar at the Center for Public Art & Space at the University of Pennsylvania.

Marie-Luisa Frick is an Associate Professor at the Department of Philosophy, University of Innsbruck, Austria. She investigates questions of political and legal philosophy with an emphasis on human rights as well as democratic theory and democratic ethics. Her numerous publications include the much-noticed essay *Zivilisiert streiten. Zur Ethik politischer Gegnerschaft* (Contending in a civilized manner: On the ethics of political antagonism, 2017).

Rebecka Katz Thor is a writer and researcher in Art History at the Department of Culture and Aesthetics at Stockholm University and in Aesthetics at Södertörn University. Her research interests are memory studies, processes of commemorations in monuments and museums and as well as contemporary art and its relation to political, historical, and ethical claims.

Stephan Lehnstaedt is a German historian and Professor of Holocaust Studies and Jewish Studies at Touro University Berlin. Lehnstaedt’s research focuses on imperialism, the history of the two world wars, the Holocaust and its reparations. Lehnstaedt is publicly involved in current topics of German commemorative culture as well as Polish history.

christoph mayer chm is a Berlin-based artist who focuses on examining and intervening in places and situations by inviting the audience to participate by observing and becoming actively involved in the confrontations. His *AUDIOWALK GUSEN* in Upper Austria (www.audioweg.gusen.org) was described as a “sound sculpture” and “democratic monument par excellence” which turns the users into “walkable memorials”.

Zhenia Moliar is an art historian who studied at the National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture in Kyiv, Ukraine. Moliar's research focuses on the cultural heritage of the Soviet period, in particular monumental art. She is a research assistant at the Institute for Urban and Regional Planning, Department of Monument Conservation and Urban Cultural Heritage at the Technical University Berlin.

Olaf Nicolai is an internationally known conceptual artist, performer and director and Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich based in Berlin. In 2021, his 24-hour film *MARX* (reflecting the monument of Karl Marx in the city of Chemnitz, the former Karl-Marx-Stadt) was screened in sixteen institutions worldwide simultaneously at the respective local time. Among the monuments he created are the *Monument for a Forgotten Future* (Gelsenkirchen, 2010), and the *Memorial for the Victims of Nazi Military Justice* (Vienna, 2014).

Jules Pelta Feldman is an art historian, critic, curator, archivist, and salonnière. They are postdoctoral research fellow at Bern Academy of the Arts, Switzerland. Focused on art since 1945, their research interests include memory and monuments, conservation history and theory, performance and ephemeral media, and social justice in the art world.

Johanna Riedel has studied history and German literature and works as an Academic Trainee at the Citadel Museums. In the context of special exhibitions and the exhibition *Unveiled. Berlin and its Monuments*, she deals with the musealization and curation of controversial monuments.

Françoise Schein is an artist, architect, urban planner, cartographer and Professor of design in Public Art at the School Esam in Caen, Normandy. Schein is best known for her artworks about the connections between fundamental rights and local cultures, ideas that she has immortalized in eight subway stations in the world. She founded the association *Inscrire* to produce artworks about themes related to human rights and to be produced with the participation of the local inhabitants.

Tanja Schult is an Associate Professor in Art History at the Department of Culture and Aesthetics at Stockholm University. She has published widely on monuments of all shapes, including invisible and controversial ones. Currently she explores the roles, functions and shapes of monuments in democracies.

Erin L. Thompson is Professor of art crime at the City University of New York, USA. Her work analyses the ways in which the deliberate destruction of art has sometimes harmed and sometimes benefited communities. In *Smashing Statues: The Rise and Fall of American Public Monuments* (Norton, 2022), she traces the turbulent history and abundant ironies of U.S. monuments.

Petra Unger works as Cultural Mediator, Academic Consultant for Feminist Education and Politics as well as an Expert for Gender Studies and Feminist Research. She imparts women history and female history of art under feminist aspects giving lectures, workshops and seminars about the history of the Austrian feminist movements and feminist theories. In the last 25 years, she has developed more than 50 different walks in 15 districts of Vienna.

Albert Weis is a Berlin-based artist and member of Deutscher Künstlerbund. He has realised various commissions and art projects in public space. In 2016 he won in collaboration with Zeller & Moyer architects the competition for the redesign of the central Luther memorial in Berlin. Originally scheduled for completion in 2019, the realisation has so far failed due to still ongoing coordination between the client and the city administration.

Zentrum für Politische Schönheit / Centre for Political Beauty is a Berlin-based art collective. Since its founding in 2008, the centre is known for its disruptive confrontation and questioning of official politics, especially vis-à-vis migration policy. Their hands-on-interventions have the goal to set the Holocaust imperatives of Never forget and Never Again into action. With interventions such as *Deine Stele* in Bornhagen, they turn towards the enemies of democracy.