



2 0 1 8 G R A D U A T E S Y M P O S I U M
HOSTED BY GRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

MOTIVATING MONUMENTS:

D E F I N I N G C O L L E C T I V E I D E N T I T I E S
I N P U B L I C S P A C E S

A symposium hosted by the graduate students of the History of Art and Architecture Department at the University of Pittsburgh will be held November 2-3, 2018. Dr. Jacqueline Jung will serve as the symposium's keynote speaker.

The goal of this conference is to promote interdisciplinary discussions about the power invested in monuments and how individual attachments to them are persistently and profoundly mediated by shared group identities. This symposium takes objects as concrete manifestations of collective identities and will foster productive, in-depth discussions about the shared stakes of monuments. Conversations will unfold across premodern, early modern, modern, and contemporary topics, thematically linking research that might otherwise be isolated by disciplinary or historical divides.

Visual objects can serve as vital tools of social cohesion, whether through construction, destruction, modification, or translocation; monuments link shared concerns that persist across time and geographic location, from the disassembly and installation of the Elgin Marbles in London to anti-monumentality in Gu Wenda's Forest of Stone Steles. We welcome proposals that attend to the diverse roles of visual culture as monuments to or within collectivities. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

Construction

- Civic or religious monuments or built environments
- Imposed identities
- Antimonuments

Destruction

- Censorship and erasure
- Iconoclasm

Modification or Relocation

- Restoration campaigns and responses to these actions
- Subaltern appropriation or utilization of public monuments
- Artistic practices that subvert or challenge existing monuments

Theoretical Concerns

- Alternate definitions of monument
- Issues of monumentality

Contact Info:

To propose a 20-minute presentation, please send an abstract of up to 300 words and a CV to pittgradsymposium@gmail.com by midnight, March 30, 2018. Invitations to participate will be issued by mid-April.