

Sculpture as Monument

Communicating a message
through art

What is a monument?



- A monument is a statue, building, or other edifice created to commemorate a person, event or as an artistic object.
- The Stone Mountain monument to confederate soldiers is one of Atlanta's most recognized monuments.

What is a site specific sculpture?

- Site specific art explores the artist's relationship to a particular location - both visually and conceptually (through form and meaning)
- Site specific art also affects and reshapes the viewer's relationship with that place
- A memorial to an event or a person is often the subject matter of a site specific sculpture.

American Monuments

- Monuments can celebrate friendship with another country like the Statue of Liberty which was a gift from France or a tragedy like the rows of empty chairs symbolizing the people killed in the Oklahoma bombing.



American Monuments

- Sculptor Maya Lin has created several monuments in America including the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C and the Civil Rights Memorial in Birmingham, Alabama.
- Lin's brilliant solution to engaging the spectator in the monuments is to include the viewers reflection in the pieces. A film of water covers the time table in the Civil Rights monument and the polished stone reflects the viewers image onto the names of the fallen soldiers in the Vietnam War Memorial.



South American Monument



- Christ the Redeemer was recently named one of the new 7 Wonders of the World and is a monument to the Christian religious leader on Corcovado Mountain in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Monuments in the United Kingdom

- The Wellington Arch in London, England was created to commemorate Britain's victories in the Napoleonic Wars and features the angel of peace descending over the chariot of war.



Australian Monuments

- The first settlers to arrive in Australia were convicts, military officers and their families. Both of these memorial sculptures symbolize the first settlers. One is a link between the place they came from and the new land and the other is a limestone sculpture that actually represents the original settlers on a three sided memorial sculpture near the Sydney Opera House.



What do you want to memorialize?

- If you could honor a person, group of people, or an event in history in a monument sculpture who would you immortalize?
- Create a web (concept map/mind map) in your sketchbook showing the attributes of the person or event you want to use as the inspiration for the creation of your mini monument.

What message do you want to communicate?

- Your sculpture will need to convey your message to viewers.
- What elements of art can you use to communicate the feeling you want to get across?
- What colors will best represent your artistic intent?