DIFFICULT DIALOGUES IN PUBLIC ART
MORE ART is a New York City-based nonprofit organization that supports collaborations between artists and underrepresented communities to create thought-provoking public art and educational programs that inspire broad discourse regarding social and cultural issues.
Abraham Lincoln: War Veteran Projection
Krzysztof Wodiczko (2012)
Reimagining Monuments to Make Them Resonate Locally and Personally

Instead of returning to a model of permanently memorializing an illusory and grandiloquent past, why not consider commissioning temporary commemorative works rooted in local community histories and struggles?

This is not an act of vandalism. It is a work of public art and an act of applied art criticism. We have no intent to damage a mere statue. The true damage lies with patriarchy, white supremacy, and settler-colonialism embodied by the statue.

— October 2017 manifesto issued by the Monument Removal Brigade

Virginia State Police in riot gear stand in front of the statue of General Robert E. Lee before forcing white nationalists, neo-Nazis and members of the "alt-right" out of Emancipation Park after the "Unite the Right" rally was declared an unlawful gathering August 12, 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia. Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images.
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Memorials to Shattered Myths: Vietnam to 9/11

At the 2018 annual meeting of the College Art Association (Los Angeles), I will be co-chairing a session entitled “Teachable Monuments: Using the Sculptures in our Midst to Spark Dialogue and Address Controversies.”

Teachable Monuments, an initiative begun under the aegis of Public Art Dialogue, advocates for the use of public monuments as a focus for civic and civil dialogues in schools at every level, from kindergarten to university. It also plans to develop guidelines for public officials in communities to help resolve controversies regarding public monuments. It could hardly be more timely.

The current rush to remove Confederate memorials is heartening; such celebrations of a South defined by slavery have no place in our civic spaces where their value system is implicitly condoned by the powers that be.

That said, they should not be destroyed; history cannot and should not be erased in this fashion. Rather, we might consider creating actual or virtual museums where Confederate and other outdated monuments that express value systems that have been rejected by most might be displayed, complete with images of their previous siting(s) and an explanation of their significance at the time of their creation and now.

On The Impossibility of Freedom in a Country Founded on Slavery and Genocide

Dread Scott (2014)
After seeing the performance, and a month later hearing that Darren Wilson, the murderer of Michael Brown was not getting indicted, I decided to do something positive. The negative energy became too much and I saw the youth and my generation around me with no hope in their eyes. It affected me because I knew that giving up was not an option. With the help of some teachers, students, and other leaders and I created a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the Dread Scott performance and find out people’s reactions to the Michael Brown case, and the injustices towards black and brown people. Some of the reactions left me speechless and somewhat frustrated because my generation wanted things to change but believed that everything would always remain the same. Although I knew that I couldn’t change everyone’s way of thinking, I began participating in protests and the “Millions March” because it meant a lot to me to make a change and let others know that things can change.

- Saragine Edouard, December 15, 2014