The Next Monument

Extra-West Wednesday programme
Curated by Gennaro Postiglione
19/02/2014, 18:00 - 21:00
Gerhard Hofland gallery
Bilderdijkstraat 165, 1053KP Amsterdam

For the last two years, Gennaro Postiglione has been researching commemorative forms which relate to conflict heritage memories and events (http://www.recall-project.polimi.it). As part of the REcall research project, Postiglione has been conducting a residency research programme at M4gastalier (http://www.m4gastatelier.nl) in Amsterdam, during which he has conceived an "instant exhibition" which will bridge the work delivered by teams involved in the REcall competition with local perspectives on the topic of commemorative forms in contemporary culture.

Are monuments only records of recorded histories? How can they act as a prompts for on-going reflection? Could a traditional monument be the starting point for individual commemoration? Does a memorial have to be fashioned out of bronze or marble to make a significant impression on our psyche?

In response to some of these questions, Postiglione in collaboration with the coordinators of the M4 gastatelier will host an evening of discussion guided by specialists in the fields of archaeology, art, anthropology and history, from in and around Amsterdam. During the talks, invited guests will be asked to present (up a max to 5 min) their responses to the concept of "The next Monument", followed by feedback from the audience and further conversation.

The discussion acts as a precursor to an installation developed as a collective art work by Mikel van Gelderen, Marianne Theunissen, Gennaro Postiglione, Jeroen Werner and Jurjen Zeinstra (with the collaboration of the historian Loes Gompes) over the course of the residency at M4, and which will be on show for one day at Amstel 41 gallery on the 25th of February (in occasion of the celebrations of the Jewish Resistance and of the February strike).

Invited speakers:
Esther Captain (4 en 5 mai Comité), Ines Dantas (Architect, Innsbruck School of Architecture) Marek Jasisnki (Archaeologist, Norwegian Tech University), Guno Jones (independent researcher), Mark Pimlott (Artist and Architect, TU-Delft), Jon Reitan (Curator at Falstad Human Rights Centre), Ihab Saloul (Memory Studies, UvA/VU Amsterdam), Rob van der Laarse (Memory Studies, UvA/VU Amsterdam), Niels Weitcamp (4 en 5 mai Comité), Francien van Westrenen (Stroom-den Hague), Florian Wurfbaum (independent architect)

The session will be chaired by Clare Butcher, a curator and teacher at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie.

About Recall-project:
REcall challenges the investigation of new forms of interventions on Conflict Heritage and Landscape with the aim to overcome the trauma connected with many painful places & stories acknowledging history but with the precise goal to avoid the reduction and limitation of action around commemorative spaces. The consortium making up REcall, believe there is

the need to shift from 'simple' commemoration to more active involvement and participation of people in/with the places & stories, through an act of 'reappropriation'. For more information, see: http://www.recall-project.polimi.it/blog/

About M4gastelier:
The M4 Foundation offers a guest studio in the centre of Amsterdam. It is part of a large studio and apartment building, squatted in the eighties and since almost 25 years gave home to over 200 residents. For more information, see: http://www.m4gastatelier.nl
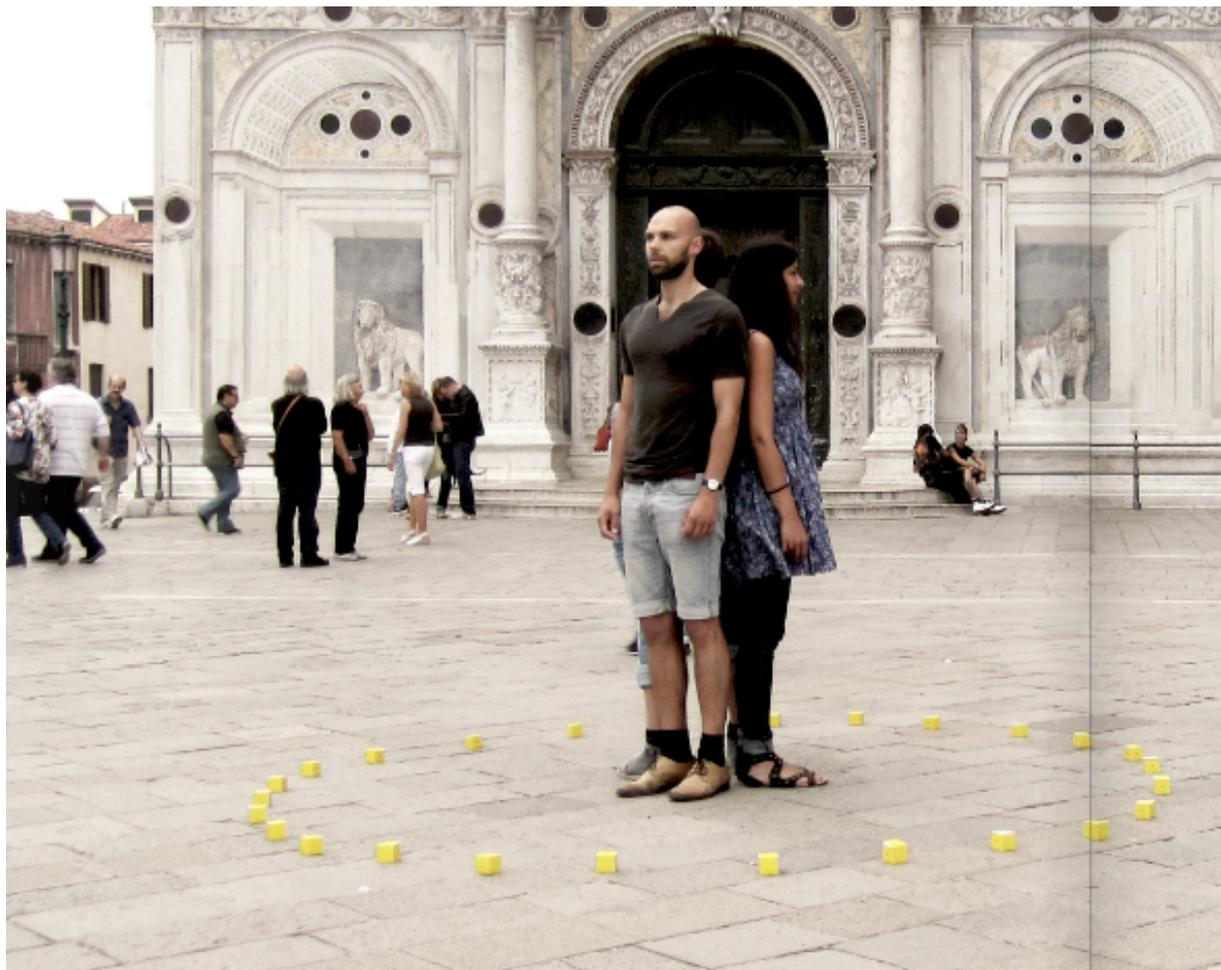
About Gennaro Postiglione
Gennaro Postiglione is Associate Professor of Architecture of Interiors at Politecnico di Milano. His researches focus mainly on reuse and valorisation of minor/neglected heritage – like the one coming from conflicts and wars - and on the relationship between collective memory and cultural identity, putting the resources of architecture in the public interest (www.lablog.org.uk).

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[Recall-project, Venice Workshop 9-13 settembre 2012]