

Shaping **THE PAST**

**TOWN HALL
HOSTED BY MONUMENT LAB**

Monument Lab Town Hall goes virtual and transnational with Shaping the Past in partnership with the Goethe-Institut and the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb)

**VIRTUAL PROGRAM
OCTOBER 8 & 9, 2020
12 – 3 PM EST**



Conference on Innovative Forms of Memory Culture

This year's 2020 Monument Lab Town Hall annual conference goes virtual and transnational, facilitating pressing conversations around what, whom, and how to remember in public spaces across the globe. This year's symposium kicks off Shaping the Past, a collaborative project in partnership with the Goethe-Institut and the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb).

On October 8 and 9, Monument Lab Town Hall explores new models and practices for how we might shape the past in ways that continue to confront legacies of racist, sexist, and colonial systems of knowledge and to strengthen democracy through public spaces. Such efforts include community organization and civic engagement tactics that include multiple publics in these monumental matters. The Town Hall features a series of four keynote conversations and video presentations from artists/activists working across the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Germany. Across two days of conversations, curators, writers, artists, and activists will think together about memory work across borders, the relationship between art and activism. Monument Lab Town Hall will explore critical and creative practices we might need towards monumental justice, education, and care.

KEYNOTE PARTICIPANTS

Paul Ramírez Jonas, Cannupa Hanska Luger, Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung, Seph Rodney, Daniela Schiller, Jasmine Wahli, Mabel Wilson, Mirjam Zadoff

OPENING PERFORMANCE

Junkanooacome by Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow (Artist), Curated by Arielle Julia Brown (Founder and Director, Black Spatial Relics)

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS FROM THE 2020 MONUMENT LAB TRANSNATIONAL FELLOWS

Hadi Al Khatib, Ulf Aminde, Tomie Arai, Sergio Beltrán-García, Thalia Fernández Bustamante, MADAD (Damon Davis, Mallory Rukhsana Nezam, and De Nichols), Ada Pinkston, Quentin VerCetty, Alisha B. Wormsley, Patrick Weems

Full Schedule

OCTOBER 8, 12:00-3:00 PM EST

INTRODUCTIONS BY PAUL FARBER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CO-FOUNDER OF MONUMENT LAB AND JOHANNES EBERT, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE GOETHE-INSTITUT

OPENING PERFORMANCE

Junkanooacome by Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow (Artist)

Curated by Arielle Julia Brown (Founder and Director, Black Spatial Relics)

CURATING MEMORY AND JUSTICE

12:15-1:30 pm EST

To curate means to “care for” the stories and objects of others, in part by co-creating complex narratives that facilitate memory-making, remembrance, and collective mourning and acknowledgment. What kinds of frameworks and practices do curators, together with artists and the publics they serve, adopt to foreground questions of justice through their work?

Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung (Founder and Artistic Director, SAVVY Contemporary) and Jasmine Wahi (Founder and Co-Director of Project for Empty Space; Holly Block Social Justice Curator at the Bronx Museum)

Moderated by Patricia Eunji Kim (Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow and Provost’s Postdoctoral Fellow, New York University; Assistant Curator, Monument Lab)

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS FROM THE 2020 MONUMENT LAB TRANSNATIONAL FELLOWS

1:30-1:45 pm EST

Alisha B. Wormsley, Thalia Fernández Bustamante, Quentin VerCetty, Hadi Al Khatib, and Ada Pinkston

ART, ACTIVISM, AND SHAPING THE PUBLIC SPHERE

1:45-3:00 pm EST

Art and performance create physical, virtual, and conceptual spaces for critical dialogue and political action. Art and activism lean on each other, opening up avenues for new alliances, coalitions, and kin relations in the service of equity and justice. What is the responsibility of the artist-as-activist to both their own and/or other communities?

Paul Ramírez Jonas (Artist; Professor, Hunter College) and Cannupa Hanska Luger (Artist)

Moderated by Michelle Angela Ortiz (Artist)

Full Schedule

OCTOBER 9, 12:00-3:00PM EST

INTRODUCTIONS BY STEPHAN NICOLEAU, MONUMENT LAB ADVISORY BOARD AND THOMAS KRÜGER, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL AGENCY FOR CIVIC EDUCATION (BUNDESZENTRALE FÜR POLITISCHE BILDUNG/BPB)

MEMORY, TRAUMA, AND TRANSFORMATION

12:15-1:30 pm EST

Public art and memorials carve out physical space to grapple with loss, pain, and trauma. Processes of mourning may register the ongoing weight of memory, as well as open new, transformative possibilities. What are the roles of public landscapes and spaces in contending with and addressing individual and collective memories and historical traumas?

Daniela Schiller (Professor of Neuroscience and Psychiatry, Icahn School of Medicine) and Mabel Wilson (Professor of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, Columbia University)

Moderated by Sue Mobley (Senior Research Scholar, Monument Lab)

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS FROM THE 2020 MONUMENT LAB TRANSNATIONAL FELLOWS

1:30-1:45 pm EST

Sergio Beltrán-García, Ulf Aminde, Tomie Arai, Patrick Weems, and MADAD (Damon Davis, Mallory Rukhsana Nezam, and De Nichols)

CONFRONTING ART AND HISTORY

1:45-3:00 pm EST

From museums and galleries to the academy and non-profit organizations, culture workers are challenging institutions that are historically entrenched in colonialism and white supremacy to evolve and grow. How might institutions of art and history account and even atone for their participation in such systems of power? What might an ethics of equity and care look like in memory-work?

Seph Rodney (Senior Editor at Hyperallergic) and Mirjam Zadoff (Director, Munich Documentation Centre for the History of National Socialism)

Moderated by Ken Lum (Curatorial Advisor and Co-Founder, Monument Lab)




About *Shaping the Past*

Shaping the Past is a partnership between Monument Lab, the Goethe-Institut, and the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb) that addresses pressing issues around what, whom, and how to remember in public spaces. The project facilitates a transnational exchange program bringing artists and activists together in dialogue to highlight ongoing critical memory interventions in sites and spaces in North America and Germany. Shaping the Past supports civic practitioners, artists, and activists who critically reimagine monuments and emerges from the ongoing Monument Lab Fellows program. These collaborations and conversations offer innovative models for how we might memorialize the past, create dialogue, and strengthen democracy through public spaces across the globe.

The collaborative initiative consists of three landmark elements: a major public conference that will take place during Monument Lab's annual Town Hall (October 8-9, 2020); a multi-site exhibition curated by Monument Lab and presented by Goethe-Institut North America and bpb with local programming organized by Goethe-Instituts throughout North America (2021); and a multilingual book that documents the transnational conversations around public memory as envisioned by the artists, activists, and their collaborators, co-edited by Monument Lab's Paul M. Farber and Patricia Eunji Kim.

PARTNERS

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DESIGN

Studio Aorta

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VIDEOGRAPHY

Sosena Solomon

 @sosena



About Monument Lab

Monument Lab is an independent public art and history studio based in Philadelphia that cultivates and facilitates critical conversations around the past, present, and future of monuments. As a studio and curatorial team, Monument Lab pilots collaborative approaches to unearthing and reinterpreting histories. This includes citywide art exhibitions, site-specific commissions, participatory research initiatives, a national fellows program, a web bulletin and podcast, and a workshop series for municipal and cultural officers.

Contact Monument Lab at info@monumentlab.com.

About Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. With 157 institutes in 98 countries, it promotes knowledge of German abroad, encourages international cultural exchange and conveys an image of contemporary Germany. Our cultural and educational programs encourage intercultural dialogue and enable cultural involvement. With our network of Goethe-Instituts, Goethe Centers, Pop-Ups, cultural societies, we are partners for all who actively engage with Germany and its culture, working independently and without political ties. Visit our country portals for the USA, Canada, and Mexico to find out more and find us on social media.

All inquiries may be directed to program-washington@goethe.de.

About Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb)

The Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung/bpb) is a federal public authority providing citizenship education and information on political issues for all people in Germany. The bpb's work centres on promoting awareness for democracy and participation in politics. Since 1952, it has been engaged in education aimed at strengthening and promoting civil society. The various educational activities the bpb has to offer provide insights into political, cultural, social and economic processes in past and present.

Speaker and Presenter Biographies

ARIELLE JULIA BROWN

Arielle Julia Brown (she/her) is a cultural producer, cultural strategist, artist and dramaturg. Arielle is committed to supporting and creating Black performance work that commands imaginative and material space for social transformation. Arielle is the Founder and Director of Black Spatial Relics, a new performance residency supporting work about slavery, justice and freedom. Arielle is also a performance curator and cultural producer for Monument Lab.

IG/Twitter: @reljulia

PAUL M. FARBER, PHD

Paul M. Farber, PhD (he/they) is Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Monument Lab. He also serves as Senior Research Scholar at the Center for Public Art & Space at the University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design.

IG/Twitter: @paul_farber

CANNUPA HANSKA LUGER

Cannupa Hanska Luger (he/him) is a multi-disciplinary artist of Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Lakota and European descent. Using social collaboration and in response to timely and site-specific issues, Luger produces multi-pronged projects provoking diverse publics to engage with Indigenous peoples and values apart from the lens of colonial social structuring.

IG/Twitter: cannupahanska

PATRICIA EUNJI KIM, PHD

Patricia Eunji Kim, PhD (she/her) is an art historian, curator, and educator based in New York City. She is Assistant Professor and Faculty Fellow at New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study and Assistant Curator and Communications Director at Monument Lab.

IG: @queenswhorule @triciaeunjikim; Twitter: @lowerendtheory

THOMAS KRÜGER

Thomas Krüger (he/him) is President of the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung/bpb). During his time as a vicar in the German Democratic Republic, he was part of the civil rights movement and dissident arts scene. After the Fall of the Berlin Wall, he became Senator for Youth and Family in Berlin and later on Member of Parliament in the German Bundestag. After two years of parental leave, he was named head of the bpb in July 2000.

KEN LUM

Ken Lum (he/him) is a Canadian artist and the Marilyn Jordan Taylor Presidential Professor and chair of the Department of Fine Arts at the University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design. He is also the Chief Curatorial Advisor and Co-Founder of Monument Lab.

IG: @ken_lum

JODIE LYN-KEE-CHOW

Jodie Lyn-Kee-Chow (she/her) is a Jamaican-born, interdisciplinary artist with an MFA from Hunter College living and working in Queens, NY. Her work draws inspiration from Caribbean folklore, globalism, feminism, and migration and has been featured internationally in venues across the United States, the Caribbean, Europe, and Asia.

IG: @lynkeeart; Twitter: @lynkeechow

Speaker and Presenter Biographies

SUE MOBLEY

Sue Mobley (she/her) is a New Orleans-based urbanist, organizer, and advocate. She is Visiting Fellow for Arts and Culture at the American Planning Association and a member of New Orleans' City Planning Commission. She is also Senior Research Scholar for Monument Lab and a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Public Art and Space at the University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design.

IG: @paper.monuments Twitter: @wingedisis

BONAVENTURE SOH BEJENG NDIKUNG, PHD

Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung, PhD (he/him) is an independent curator, author and biotechnologist. He is founder and artistic director of SAVVY Contemporary in Berlin and the artistic director of sonsbeek20–24, a quadrennial contemporary art exhibition in Arnhem, the Netherlands. He is currently a professor in the Spatial Strategies MA program at the Weissensee Academy of Art in Berlin and is also a recipient of the first OCAD University International Curators Residency fellowship in Toronto in 2020.

IG: @savvycontemporary @bonaventurendikung

STEPHAN NICOLEAU

Stephan Nicoleau (he/him) is a Monument Lab Advisory Board Member and a Managing Director at FullCycle and leads the firm's capital formation and partnerships. Stephan is a conscious investor with a 15-year career oriented towards positive social and environmental impact. Stephan is a serial entrepreneur, trusted advisor and infrastructure investor. As a partner at FullCycle, Stephan heads the firm's enterprise relationships and capital solutions and its \$250M fund, which is focused on accelerating scalable solutions to the climate crisis. Early in his career he advised the executive teams at JP Morgan, Credit Suisse, and Barclays Capital as a strategic consultant, guiding these firms through the financial crisis and beyond. After an early exit, Stephan founded Critical Value Advisors, an advisory firm which focused on impact investments for family offices and institutions, based on the principles of inclusive wealth creation and stewardship. He later founded LaGuardia Development Partners, an investment vehicle that shaped the effort to redevelop New York's LaGuardia Airport, a \$5B infrastructure project, to be climate-forward and more inclusive of minority and women-owned firms. Stephan is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, an avid soccer player, enjoys classical music and resides in New York City with his family.

MICHELLA ANGELA ORTIZ

Michella Angela Ortiz (she/her) is a Philadelphia-based visual artist, skilled muralist, community arts educator, and filmmaker who uses her art as a vehicle to represent people and communities whose histories are often lost or co-opted. Through her practice, she creates a safe space for dialogue around some of the most profound issues communities and individuals may face. Ortiz is a 2020 Art for Justice Fund grantee, a Pew Fellow, Rauschenberg Foundation Artist as Activist Fellow, and a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist National Fellow.

IG: @michelleangelaortiz Twitter: @michelleaortiz1

PAUL RAMÍREZ JONAS

Paul Ramírez Jonas (he/him) has sought to challenge the definitions of art and the public and to engineer active audience participation and exchange over the past 25 years. He has been made public in galleries, institutions and urban spaces around the world. He has been an Associate Professor at Hunter College since 2007; and is represented by Galeria Nara Roesler in Sao Paulo and New York.

IG @paulramirezjonas

Speaker and Presenter Biographies

SEPH RODNEY, PHD

Seph Rodney, PhD (he/him) was born in Jamaica, and came of age in the Bronx, New York. He is a senior editor and writer for Hyperallergic, writing on visual art and related issues. He has also written for The New York Times, CNN Op-ed pages, American Craft Magazine and NBC Universal, and penned catalog essays for Joyce J. Scott, Teresita Fernandez, and Meleko Mokgosi. He can be heard weekly on the podcast “The American Age”. His book, *The Personalization of the Museum Visit*, was published by Routledge in May of 2019. In 2020 he won the Rabkin Arts Journalism Prize.

Instagram: @sephsees; Twitter: @SephSpeaks

DANIELA SCHILLER, PHD

Daniela Schiller, PhD (she/her) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, the Nash Family Department of Neuroscience, and the Friedman Brain Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Her research is focused on emotional control and flexibility and the modification of emotional memories.

TIFFANY TAVAREZ

Tiffany Tavarez (she/her) serves as Vice President of Community Relations at Wells Fargo. She is also the Chair of the Monument Lab Advisory Board.

IG: @tiffanytavarez

JASMINE WAHI

Jasmine Wahi (she/her) is a Curator, Activist, TEDx Speaker, and a Founder and Co-Director of Project for Empty Space in Newark, NJ and the Holly Block Social Justice Curator at the Bronx Museum. Her practice predominantly focuses on issues of femme empowerment, complicating binary structures within social discourses, and exploring multipositional cultural identities through the lens of intersectional feminism.

IG: @browngirlcurator Twitter: @brwngirlcurator

MABEL WILSON, PHD

Mabel Wilson, PhD (she/her) is the Nancy and George Rupp Professor of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, a Professor in African American and African Diasporic Studies, and the Director of the Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS) at Columbia University. Wilson has published two books *Begin with the Past: Building the National Museum of African American History and Culture* (2016) and *Negro Building: Black Americans in the World of Fairs and Museums* (University of California Press 2012).

Twitter: @Negrobuilding

MIRJAM ZADOFF, PHD

Mirjam Zadoff, PhD (she/her) is Director of the Munich Documentation Centre for the History of National Socialism. From 2014 to 2019 she held the Alvin H. Rosenfeld Chair for Jewish Studies and was Associate Professor for History at Indiana University Bloomington. Among her publications are: *Werner Scholem. A German Life* (2018), *Next Year in Marienbad. The Lost Worlds of Jewish Spa Culture* (2012), and *Schafhausen: Tell me about tomorrow*, co-edited with Nicolaus (Hirmer publishers, forthcoming).

IG/Twitter: @mirjamzadoff

MONUMENT LAB TRANSNATIONAL FELLOWS 2020

Hadi Al Khatib, Ulf Aminde, Tomie Arai, Sergio Beltrán-García, Thalía Fernández Bustamante, MADAD (Damon Davis, Mallory Rukhsana Nezam, and De Nichols), Ada Pinkston, Quentin VerCetty, Alisha B. Wormsley, Patrick Weems