Espace Sculpture

Departed Struture / Imparted Tracing
On The Rhetoric of The Monument - A Project
Departed Struture / Imparted Tracing
Projet d'artiste sur la rhétorique du monument

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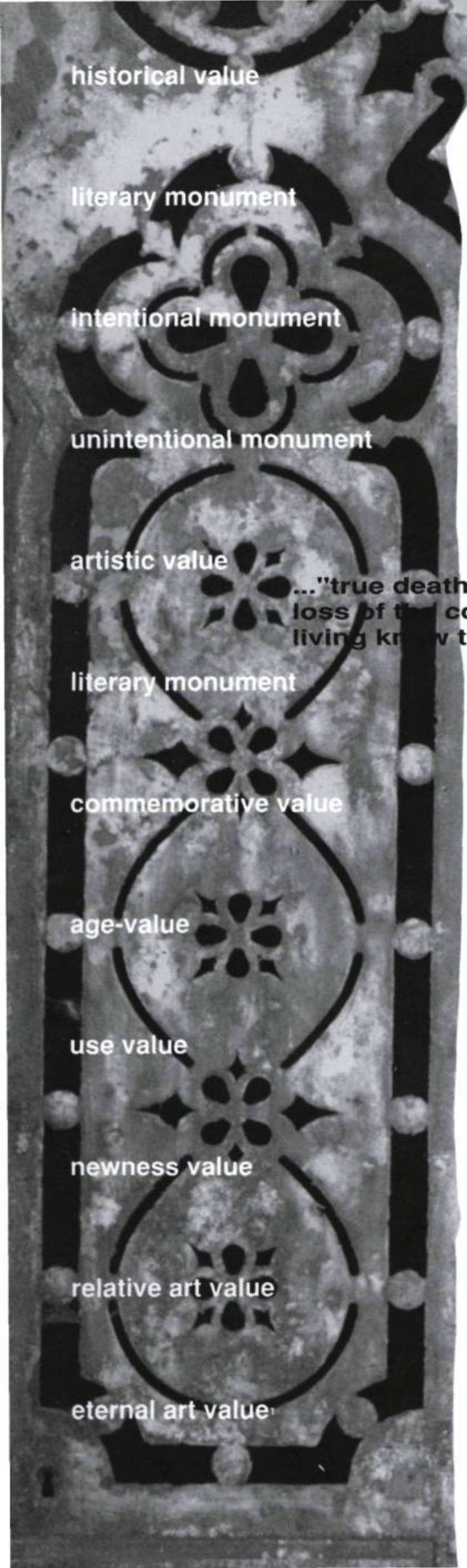

departed structure
imparted tracing

"Dominant versions of reality tend to suit dominant groups and to uphold a certain social order. ... we are moving among symbols that explain the world in ways that justify the authority of the few over the many. But we find conflicting languages of legitimacy: from the past, there are the great legitimating languages of religion and hereditary right; in modern times, there are the legitimating languages of nationalism, of economic growth, of social class, and of revolution - all of which turn the past to new purposes. In this sense there is a rhetoric of monuments, which can change with changes in the social order. ...what was 'meant' in their own time, by what we now see as monuments to the past? What social interests did they serve? What social interests do they, along with modern monuments, serve now? [2]

..."true death, that is to say, nonexistence, appears only with the loss of the collective memory. The dead continue to live as the living know their name." [3]

on the rhetoric of monuments

The burial marker – the physical, the object – is a manifestation of the meta-physical, a social condition. The meanings imbued on monuments/artifacts saturate the reflection of cultural mores as they serve to justify or commemorate. Over time, natural forces decay and weather, cultural forces redefine and/or reinforce associations and messages. Both create a fragmentation. The ever changing shadows cast sublime images onto constructed meanings in the continuous state of the temporal.

The intention and scale of memorial – the evidence in public and private (or the personal) – are determined by the condition (authority) of the organization. communial memory / from the place of the individual in connection with family, home, religion, district and People

to place in our time
history as something we are creating
the contemporary [by our very existence]

the value of a golf course in relation to burial grounds - "mark: to pick up one's golf ball from a putting green and substitute a marker"[4] the boundary stones of the site of commemoration and the investment in space become signs of power. What gets destroyed and what remains?

in looking at monuments, a series of changing metaphors
the legacy of maintenance
the question "why monuments"
to provoke to confirm to enlighten to act as model(s)
to suppress
to beautify to justify to take up space
to pacify to aussuage guilt
to commemorate
to immortalize