

M O N U
M E N T S
D E C O D E R



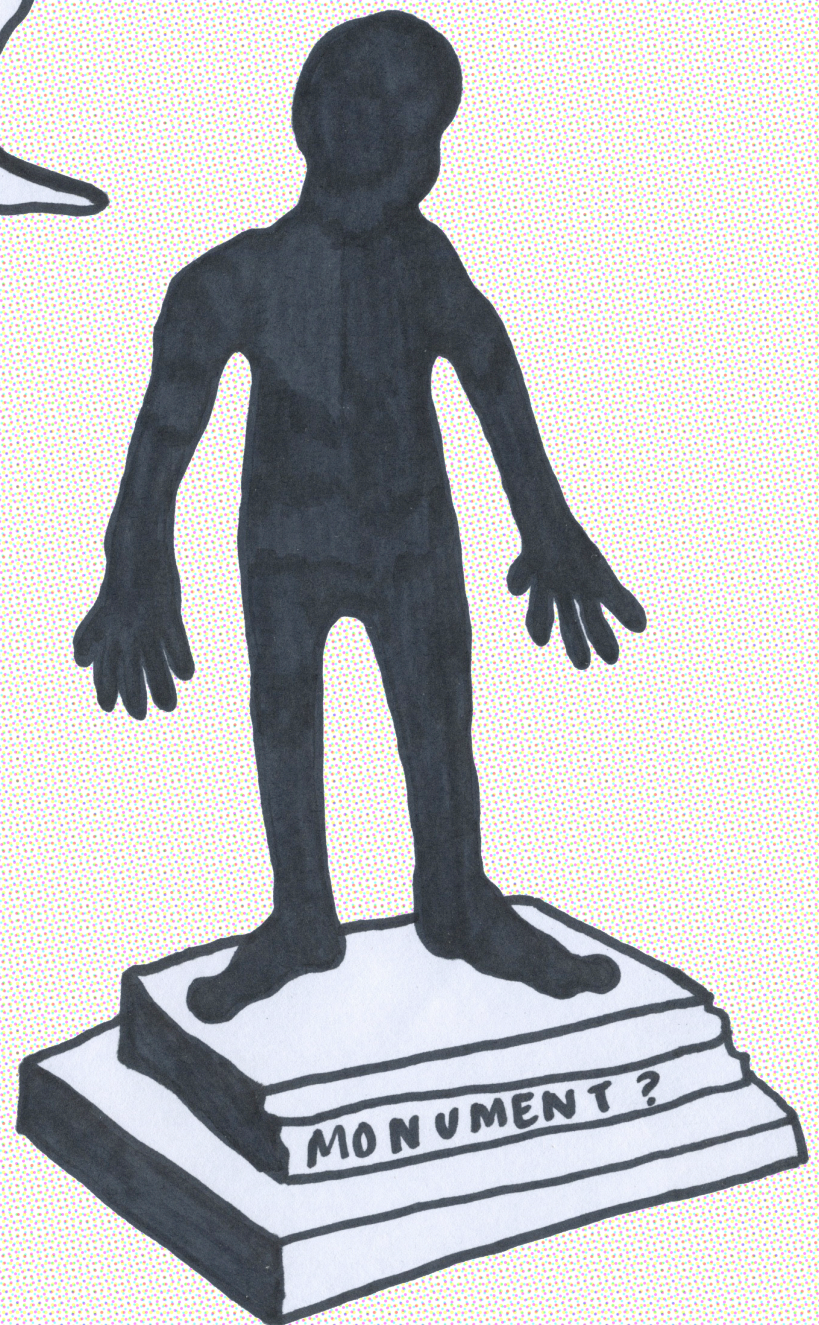


THE SOCRATEENS

WENT OUT INTO THE ASTORIA
COMMUNITY ON THE SEARCH
FOR NEW PERSPECTIVES &
CONVERSATIONS ABOUT

MONUMENTS

WHAT SHOULD I REPRESENT?
WHO SHOULD I BE?
WHERE SHOULD I GO?



Has a monument ever evoked any emotion?



Has a monument ever made you angry?



Do you find
Statues and
monuments
boring?



They're good.
It's history after
all.
- JEFF

They're mostly
dull, so yes...
- ROMAN

I LOVE art!
No way!
- JEFF



DO YOU
FEEL LIKE THE
MONUMENTS
REPRESENT
YOU?



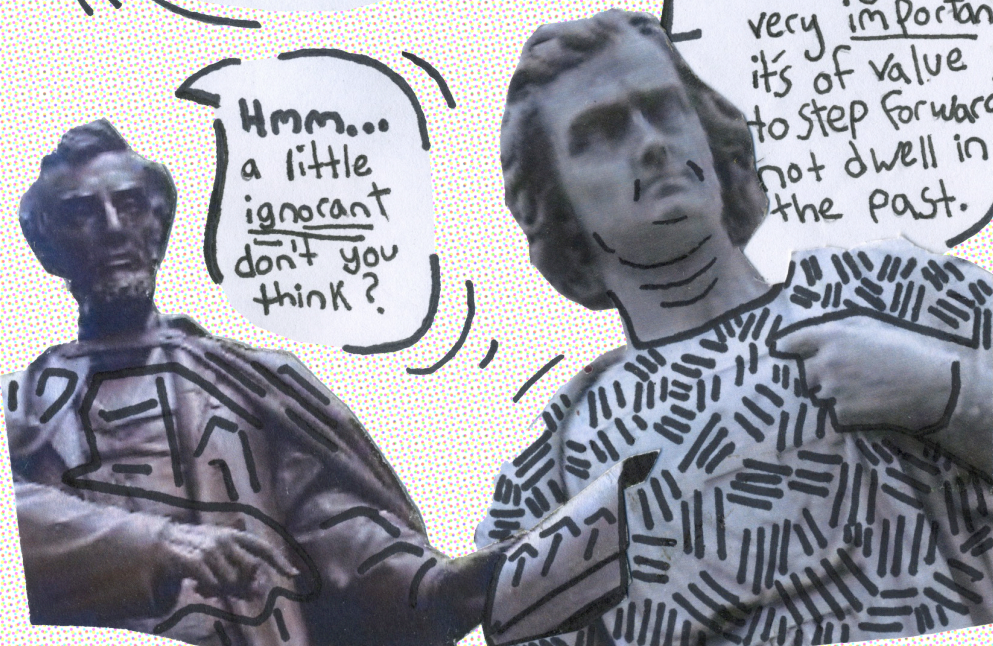
Ha, yep.
Frankly, I
don't exactly
care.



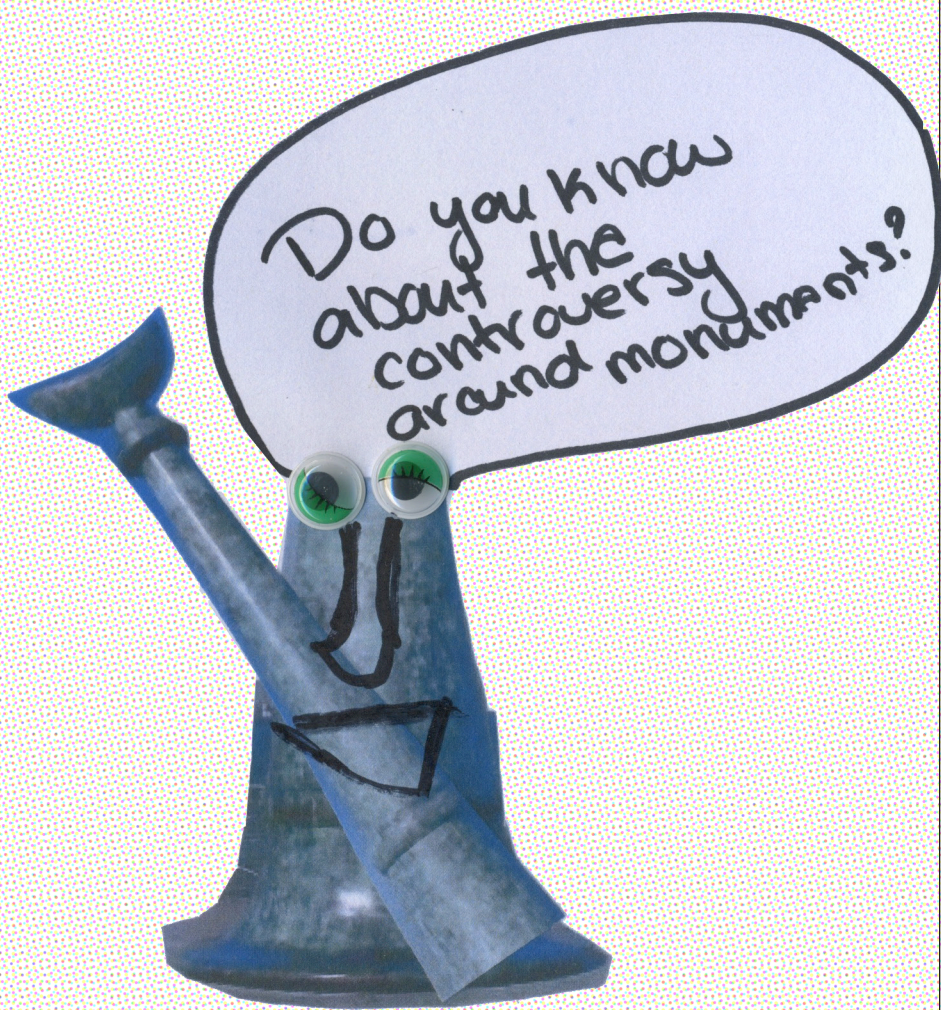
who? me?
OH! Yeah, no.
But then again
I don't expect
to be.

You see, it's
not really
something I think
about. Nor is it
something that's
very important,
it's of value
to step forward
not dwell in
the past.

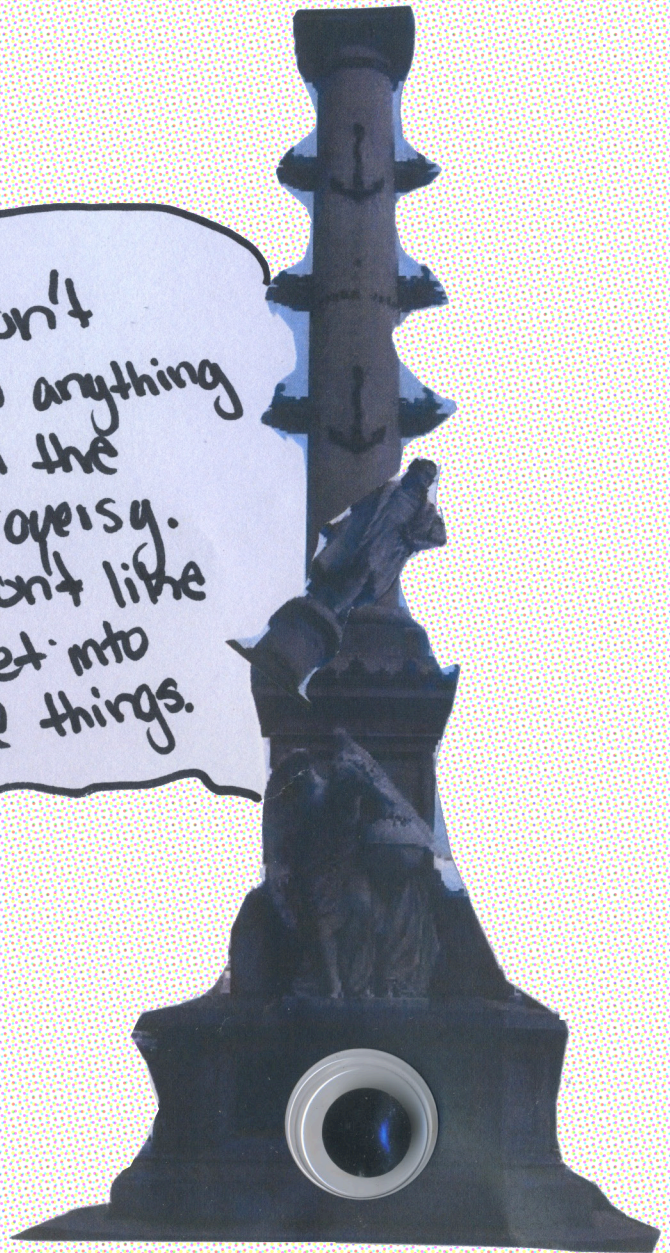
Hmm...
a little
ignorant
don't you
think?



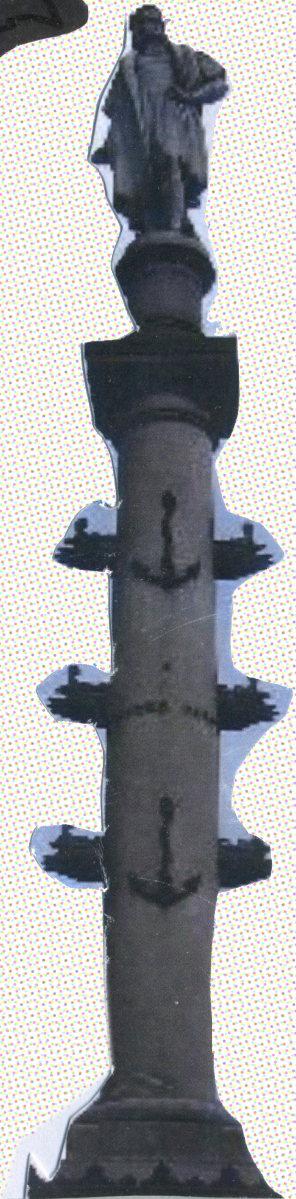


A dark, stylized figure with a large speech bubble. The figure has a white circular element at its base. The speech bubble is white with a black outline and contains the text: "I don't know anything about the controversy. I don't like to get into those things."

I don't know anything about the controversy. I don't like to get into those things.



Why does Columbus get a
Circle?



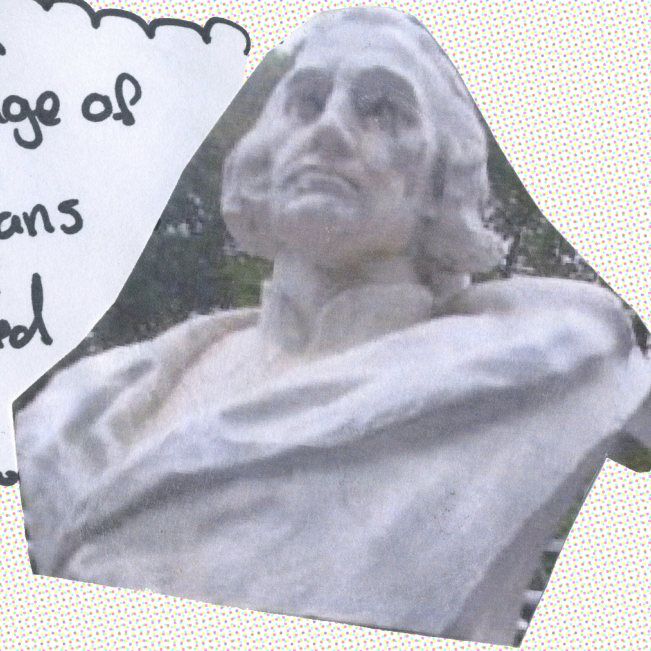


I comitted
mass genocide

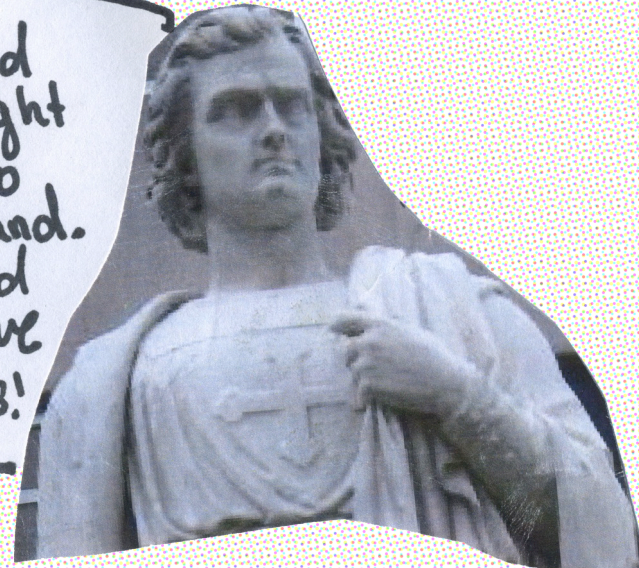


I am responsible
for the rape of
many women!!

I took
advantage of
Native
Americans
then I
Slaughtered
them



I invaded
and braight
diseases to
the New land.
I tortured
Many Native
Americans!





Are they
any
different?

I SEE NO

DIFFERENCE



I CANNOT
APPRECIATE
PRO-HATE
STATUES.
- JEFF

HAS A MONUMENT
EVER MADE YOU
ANGRY?



NO, BUT THE CONTROVERSY^A
HAS. I CAN'T SPEND 3
WEEKS ON A BOAT, SO
HE (COLUMBUS) SHOULD BE
COMMEMORATED FOR
THAT
- GEORGE



IS THERE A
BENEFIT TO HAVING
CONTRAVERSIAL
MONUMENTS?



YES THEY
SERVE AS A
REMINDER AND
SHOULD BE PUT
IN MUSEUMS




Where are the female monuments?



Uhhh...



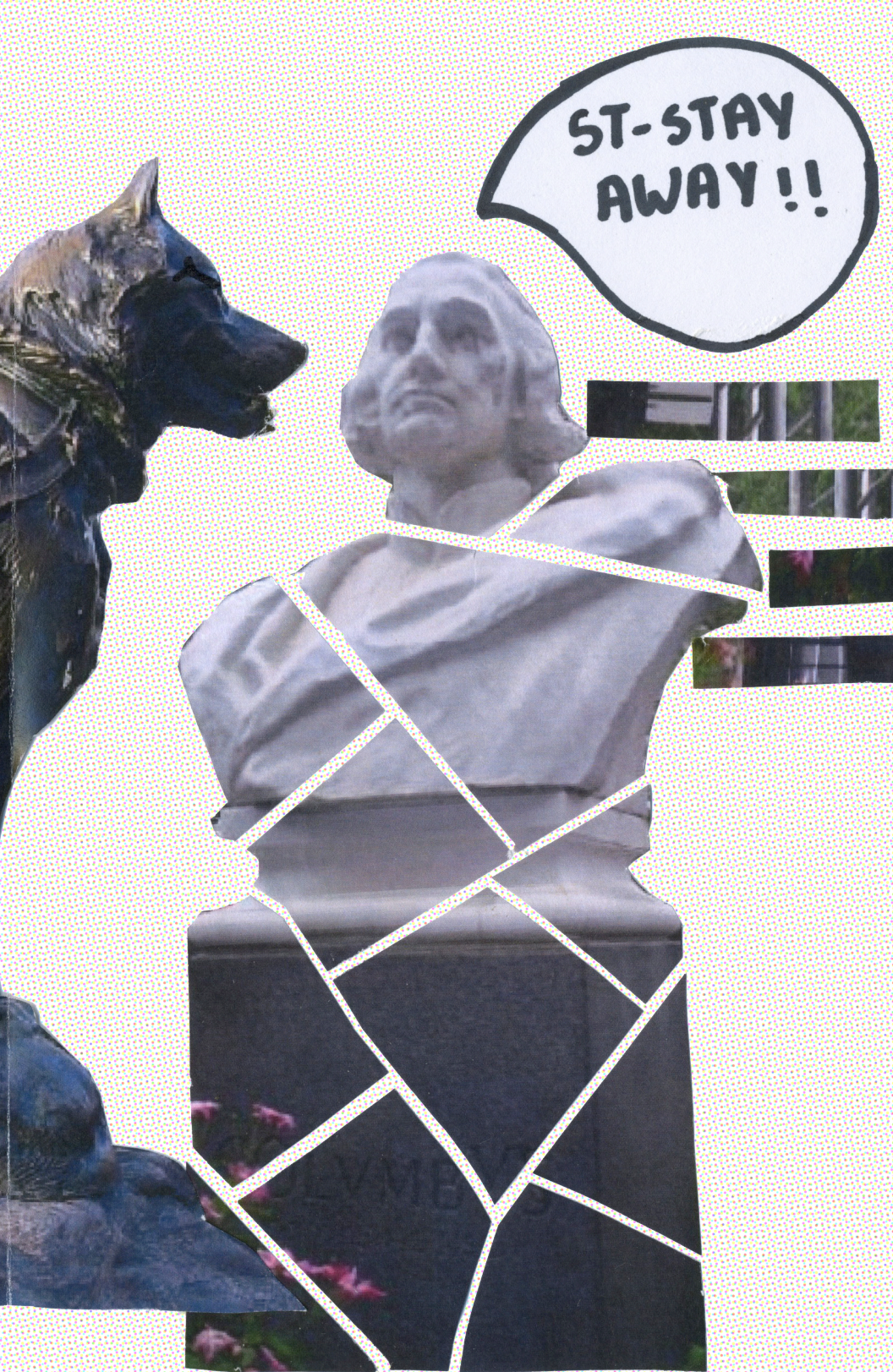


DO YOU FEEL
THAT MONUMENTS
CAN CREATE
DIALOGUES?


YES I DO.
THEY START CONSTRUCTIVE
CONVERSATIONS.
INSTEAD OF FINDING
A "SOLUTION", PEOPLE
CAN AT LEAST
BECOME AWARE OF
ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE



SHOULD WE BREAK DOWN MONUMENTS ???

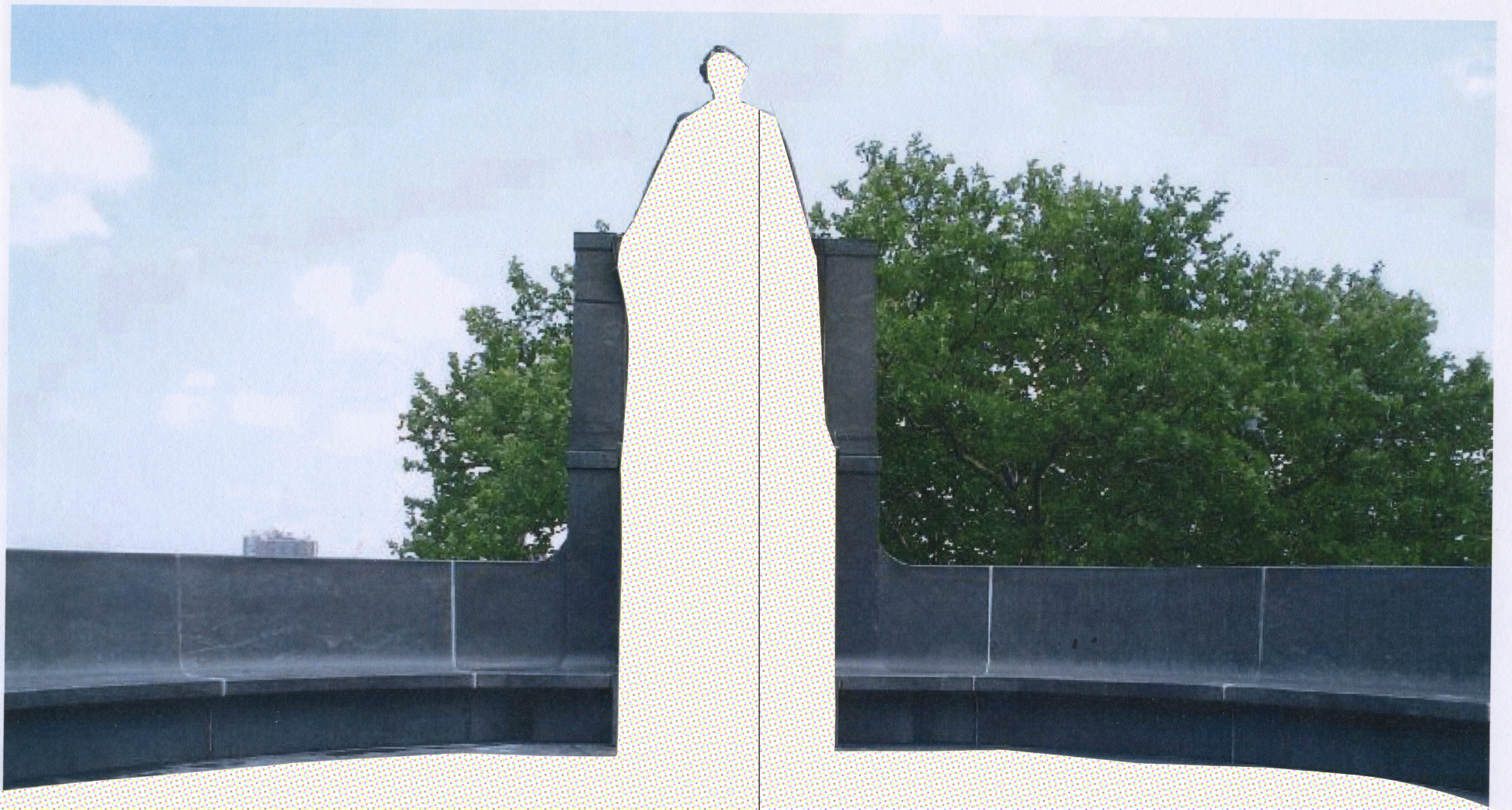


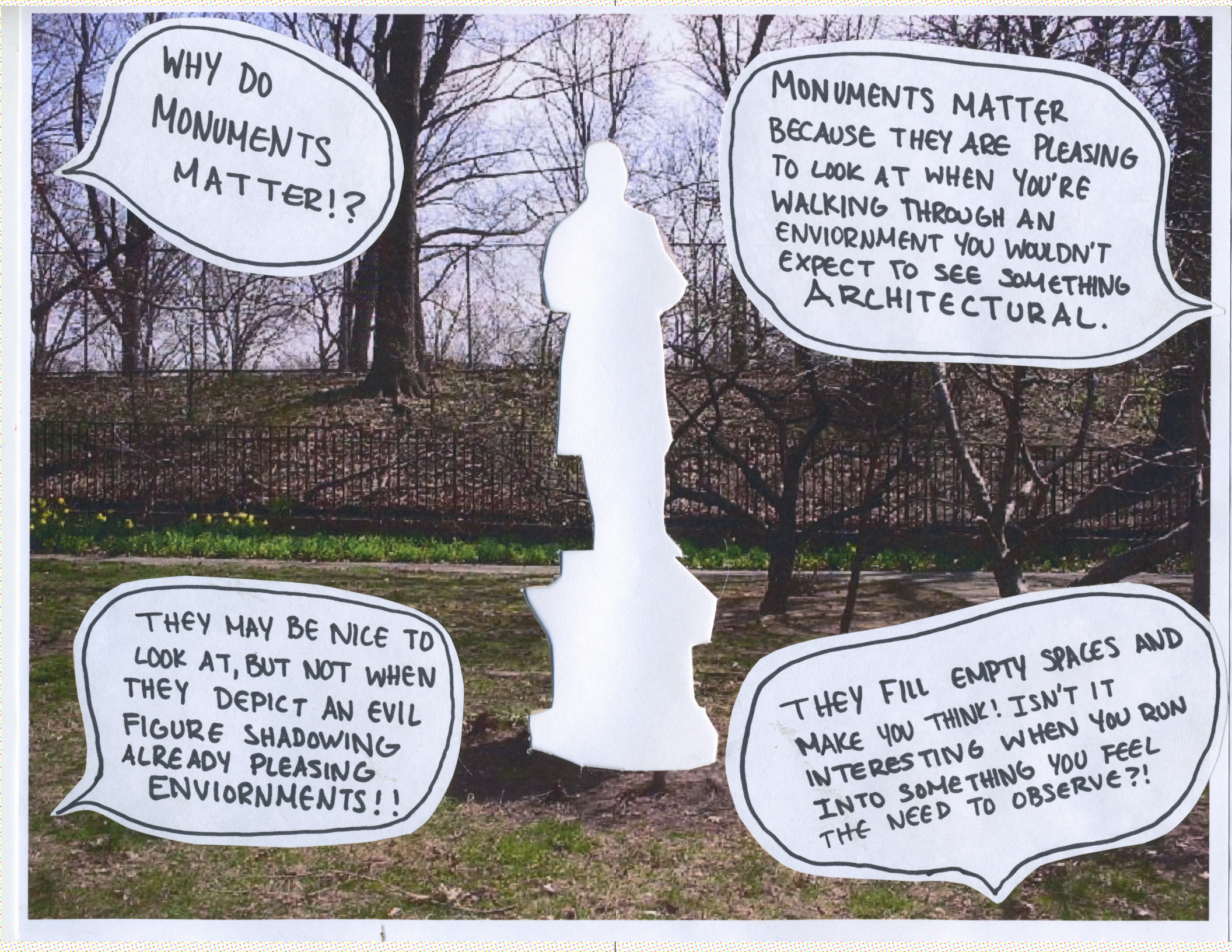
ST-STAY AWAY !!



YES! WE HAVE ENOUGH REMINDERS
OF THE PAST MISTAKES WE'VE MADE.
ALSO, THE ARTISTS THAT CREATED THIS
CREATED THEM WITH THE INTENT OF
REPRESENTING THESE MONSTERS POSITIVELY!
ABSURD!

HOW COULD YOU CALL
AMAZING ARTWORK
ABSURD! A HUMAN MADE
THIS WITH THE INTENT
TO VISUALLY ILLUSTRATE
THEIR ARTISTIC STYLE. IT
MAY PORTRAY CONTROVERSIAL
FIGURES, BUT THE
CRAFTSMANSHIP ASPECT IS
VISUALLY ADMIRABLE!





WHY DO
MONUMENTS
MATTER!?

MONUMENTS MATTER
BECAUSE THEY ARE PLEASING
TO LOOK AT WHEN YOU'RE
WALKING THROUGH AN
ENVIORNMENT YOU WOULDN'T
EXPECT TO SEE SOMETHING
ARCHITECTURAL.

THEY MAY BE NICE TO
LOOK AT, BUT NOT WHEN
THEY DEPICT AN EVIL
FIGURE SHADOWING
ALREADY PLEASING
ENVIORNMENTS!!

THEY FILL EMPTY SPACES AND
MAKE YOU THINK! ISN'T IT
INTERESTING WHEN YOU RUN
INTO SOMETHING YOU FEEL
THE NEED TO OBSERVE?!



Who would
you like to
see a monument
of?

PROFESSORS. EVERYONE
LEARNS FROM THEM.

- George

AN IMPORTANT PERSON -
NOT NECESSARILY A FAMOUS
ONE. IT'S TOO EASY TO MAKE
PEOPLE RESPECT FAME

- FRANK

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!

- ROMAN

A COMMUNITY
MEMBER?

- Jeff



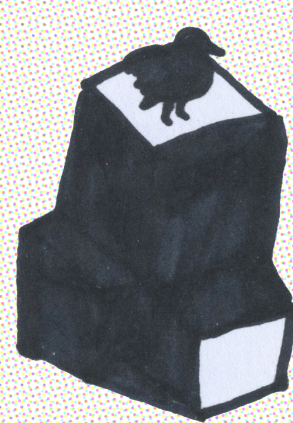
What makes
Someone
monument
worthy?

I feel it shouldn't be
Some one who did NOT
Spread positivity and
good because we
need more Art to
express good and
Positive changes.

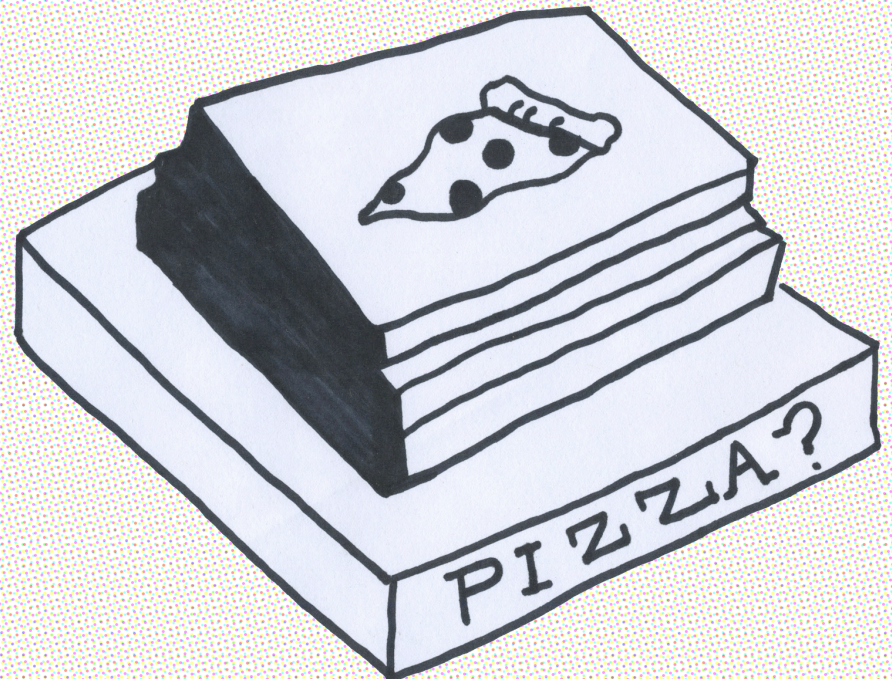


IF YOU CAN
MAKE A
MONUMENT TO
AN IDEA, WHAT
WOULD IT BE?

NYC MONUMENTS:



PIGEON



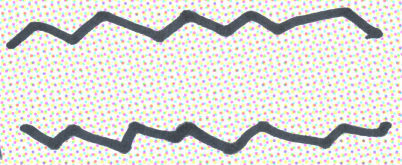
ATHENA

FROM THE PEOPLE OF

I, ONE OF THE GREATEST THINKERS OF ALL TIME, DARE TO ASK THEE THIS INQUISITIVE QUESTION!



IF YOU COULD MAKE A MONUMENT AN IDEA, WHAT WOULD IT BE?



IF IT WERE UP TO ME, I'D MAKE MONUMENTS BE ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS



IT GETS BORING SEEING A BUNCH OF DEAD WHITE GUYS. BRING ON THE YOUTH!



I THINK I'D MAKE STUFF OUT OF WORLD ISSUES! MENTAL HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE ARE PRETTY HUGE



DO YOU FEEL

THAT EVERYONE SHOULD
HAVE THE

FREEDOM

TO CREATE

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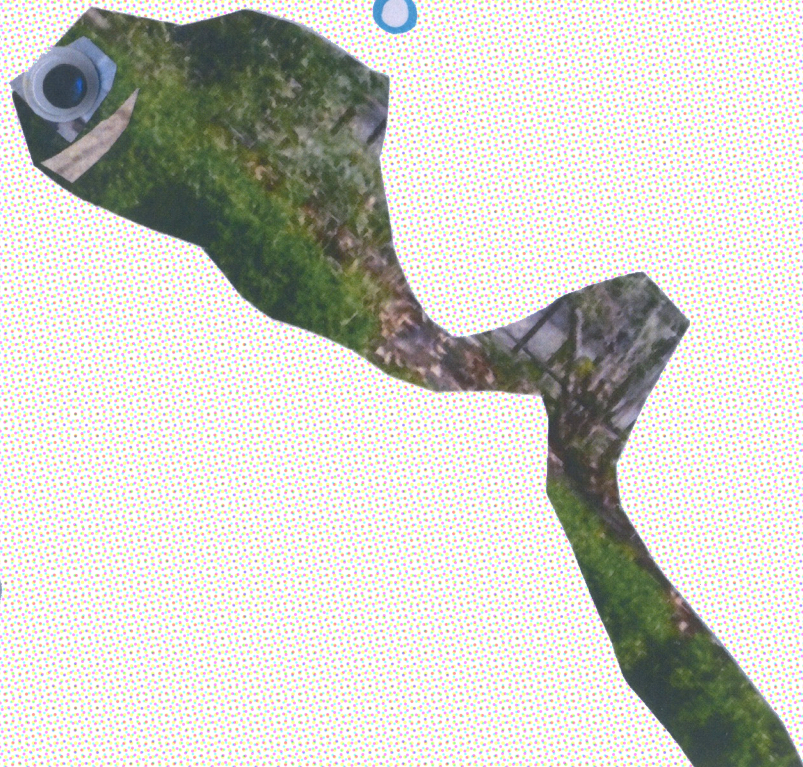
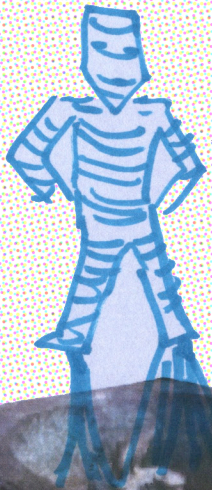
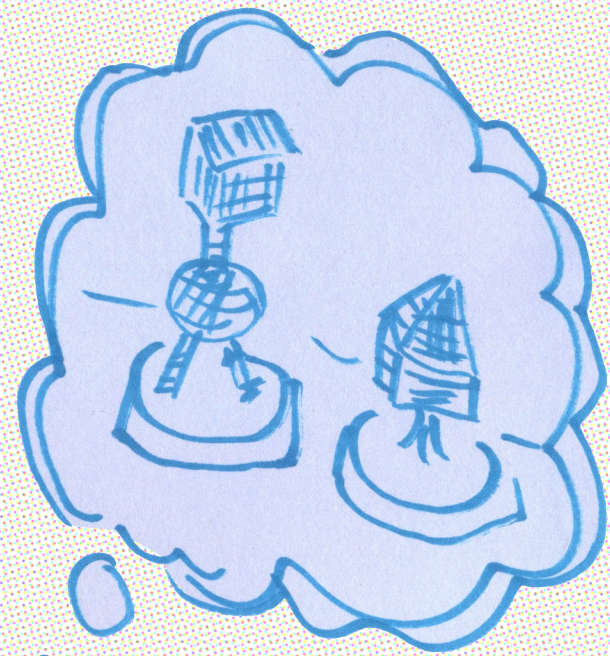


I FEEL LIKE THEIR
SHOULD BE REGULATIONS
IMPLIED BEFORE A
MONUMENT IS
VISIBLE TO THE
PUBLIC. PEOPLE
SHOULD BE
ENCOURAGED TO
CREATE THEM AND
EXPRESS THEM-
SELVES BUT ONLY
IF THEY WILL BE
A CONSTRUCTIVE
ADDITION TO
THE MONUMENT
DIALOGUE



WHAT DO YOU THINK
MONUMENTS WILL LOOK
LIKE IN THE FUTURE?

HOLOGRAMS!
-JOHNAILA



This book was made by The Socrateens:

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- Willa Vivar-Maas

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The Monuments Decoder is part of the Socrateens' contribution to MONUMENTS NOW, an exhibition examining the role of monuments at Socrates Sculpture Park. Socrateens is a year-long concentrated program for teens interested in expanding their artistic practice and gaining exposure to the art world. Socrateens is a program of Socrates Sculpture Park's Education Department.

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