

MONUMENT TO THE VICTIMS OF LIBERTY

CALL FOR ARTISTS PROPOSALS

CONTEXT

Entrepreneurs du Commun is proposing a critical reflection on the “Memorial to the Victims of Communism” that will be built in 2015 in Ottawa. [1] The aim is to question the Conservative government’s ideological instrumentalization of the concept of liberty, and to open a space of reflection regarding the commemorative gesture and its relation to contemporary conceptions of the commons.

“*Nazism, Marxist-Leninism, today, terrorism — they all have one thing in common: the destruction, the end of human liberty.*” Stephen Harper. [2]

“*The memorial will be a solemn place inviting all visitors to reflect on the impact of communism and on the meaning of oppression and freedom. It will also serve to remind all of the core Canadian values that unite us and that such values must continue to be vigilantly protected and defended.*” Excerpt from the design competition for the Memorial to the Victims of Communism in Ottawa. [3]

Faced with these gross historical confusions and ideological simplifications, we pose the following questions: Who are the victims of liberty? Does liberty not serve as a pretext for numerous wars that have been waged for many years? Do totalitarian forms of liberty exist? What makes the brand of “Canadian freedom” (Stephen Harper) so distinctive, and is it really as advertised? And finally: what is communism, and why talk about it today? How does it apply to a renewed conception of the commons in current thought?

CALL FOR PROJECTS

Entrepreneurs du Commun is launching a call for proposals for artists interested in creating a “National Monument for the Victims of Liberty.” The collective is seeking proposals that address and problematize notions of liberty and the commons, with a particular focus on the monument’s commemorative dimension and its aesthetic forms: Why commemorate? What is collective memory? To whom does it belong? Can the monumental be ephemeral? What forms can be given to an anti-monument? How does one haunt a monument?

The proposals can take on various forms (prototypes, scripts, models, etc.) and make use of a variety of mediums (sculpture, installation, photography, performance, media art, etc.). The selected proposals will be presented in the fall of 2015 in collaboration with the artist-run centre AXENÉO7 (Gatineau). The exhibiting artists will be offered a fee in compliance with the CARFAC fee schedule.

[1] “[Victims of Communism memorial cost jumps to \\$4M](#)”, Ottawa Citizen, August 21, 2014.

[2] Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada in Toronto. May 30, 2014. Accessible at: <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2014/05/30/statement-prime-minister-canada-toronto>

[3] Design competition text. Accessible at: https://buyandsell.gc.ca/cds/public/2014/03/31/2fddc3c3d-0360b8058a4102d995a8c7b/ABES.PROD.PW__FB.B001.E64948.ATTA001.PDF

APPLICATION FILE REQUIREMENTS

In PDF format, by email or via Dropbox or WeTransfer.

Please include these documents in a single PDF according to the indicated order

- Up-to-date CV (3 pages max.)
- Project Description (1 page max.)
- 1 to 3 images illustrating the proposal (jpg format, 1024 x 768 px)
- 10 images max. of recent works (jpg format, 1024 x 768 px)
- Vimeo link for videos, if applicable
- Soundcloud for sounds, if applicable
- Descriptive list of the images and documents

Send the application files by email to the following address:

monument.liberte@gmail.com

Submittal deadline: January 15, 2015

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The accepted projects will be selected by a committee made up of *Entrepreneurs du Commun* and representatives from the Canadian visual arts and culture milieu. The selection criteria are as follows:

- pertinence of the project and correspondence with the problematic
- originality of the artistic proposal

ENTREPRENEURS DU COMMUN

Entrepreneurs du Commun unites artists, art historians, curators, philosophers and researchers with the goal of opening a space of reflection and experimentation focused on haunting the monumental, like spectres of liberty.

Its current members include Erik Bordeleau (researcher at the SenseLab, Concordia University) Mélanie Boucher (professor at UQO and curator), Michel de Broin (artist), Nathalie Casemajor (professor at UQO), Gregory Chatonsky (artist), Michael Nardone (poet and editor), François Lemieux (artist), André-Louis Paré (editor of Espace magazine), Jean-Michel Ross (director of Thomas Henry Ross gallery and curator), Stefan St-Laurent (artist and director of AXENÉO7), Bernard Schütze (art critic), Adam Szymanski (PhD student in Film Studies at Concordia University).

INFORMATION

You can contact the organizing committee at:

monument.liberte@gmail.com