

Erasmus +



Erasmus-Schedule Module 5

Art-Project: Creating our Peace Memorial

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What do we expect of a
War Memorial?

Different War Memorials of WWI in Germany

source: <https://segu-geschichte.de/kriegerdenkmal/>



heroic



patriotic



aggressive



mourning

Wilhelm Lehmbruck: The Fallen 1915 Bronze (Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum Duisburg)

<https://artinwords.de/wilhelm-lehmbruck-werk-leben/>



Wilhelm Lehmbruck, Der Gestürzte, 1915 (Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg)

The fallen: individual expression of feeling hopeless

Edward Kienholz: Portable War Memorial, 1969, Museum Ludwig, Köln

Criticism on War: impossible to connect war and daily life



https://www.museenkoeln.de/portal/bild-der-woche.aspx?bdw=1998_27

Peter Eisenman: Holocaust-Memorial Berlin 2005

2711 stelae: space of depressing silence or picnic ground?



Quelle: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Holocaust-Mahnmal_Berlin_2006.jpg



BENEATH THIS STONE RESTS THE BODY
OF A BRITISH WARRIOR
UNKNOWN BY NAME OR RANK
BROUGHT FROM FRANCE TO LIE AMONG
THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS OF THE LAND
AND BURIED HERE ON ARMISTICE DAY
11 NOV: 1920. IN THE PRESENCE OF
HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V
HIS MINISTERS OF STATE
THE CHIEFS OF HIS FORCES
AND A VAST CONCOURSE OF THE NATION
THUS ARE COMMEMORATED THE MANY
MULTITUDES WHO DURING THE GREAT
WAR OF 1914-1918 GAVE THE MOST THAT
MAN CAN GIVE LIFE ITSELF
FOR GOD
FOR KING AND COUNTRY
FOR LOVED ONES HOME AND EMPIRE
FOR THE SACRED CAUSE OF JUSTICE AND
THE FREEDOM OF THE WORLD
THEY BURIED HIM AMONG THE KINGS BECAUSE HE
HAD DONE GOOD TOWARD GOD AND TOWARD
HIS HOUSE

KNOWN AND WELL KNOWN

Red Poppies: Symbols of Hope



Queen Elizabeth II visits a Tower of London art installation of red ceramic poppies at Remembrance Day of WWI



In Flanders Fields

John McCrae, 1872 - 1918

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead; short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe!
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high!
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



John McCrae

John McCrae, a Canadian doctor and teacher who is best known for his memorial poem "In Flanders Fields," was born on November 30, 1872, in Guelph, Ontario.

Transforming a War Memorial of WW1 into a Peace Monument

- general criticism on war: war is not heroic but destructive and full of suffering
- connected to world history and memory
- could be portable, not bound to one place
- space of silence so we can be connected with our inner memories
- expressing hope and peace
- transience: poor, non-lasting materials
- work in progress (never finished)

What is our Peace Memorial going to be like?

- environment of ca. 100 plaster cube objects (each cube 7cmx7cmx7cm big)
- 50 plaster cubes combined with red poppies
(= symbols of hope)
- 50 plaster cubes combined with individual symbols of destruction or memory

Everybody is going to build one cube of hope and one cube of destruction or memory. So you first have to find a symbol of destruction or memory you can combine with the cube.

A photograph showing a red paper flower on a string, which is attached to a small white box. Next to it is another white box containing a rock. The setup is on a grey table. A text box in the center says "Let's begin!".

Let's begin!