International Visual Methods Conference

track #2
Digital future

**Paper Title: Augmenting the Narratives:
Potential of Augmented Reality Counter-Sculptures**

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Augmenting the Narratives

Potential of Augmented Reality Counter-Sculptures

Memory ≠ History

Alessandro Barbero

deeply personal, subjective, and differs among individuals, communities, and generations

Memory

History

"In the face of great tragedies, great events in our history, there are significant divisions between memories." (2017)

Memory

History ———

should go beyond individual experiences, should mean understanding what happened from all points of view

" That's always the first thing:
seeing things through the eyes of others." (2023)

Public
Monuments

tend to represent a single viewpoint,
leaving little room for alternative narratives

"*There are conflicts because* **memories clash.**" (2023)

This limitation of public monuments
representing just one viewpoint
has become increasingly evident
in the context of phenomena such as

decolonization

The process of undoing the effects of colonization.

This limitation of public monuments representing just one viewpoint has become increasingly evident in the context of phenomena such as

decolonization
iconoclasm

Destruction or rejection of religious or cultural icons, statues, or symbols, often due to a belief that they represent oppressive or outdated ideologies.

This limitation of public monuments
representing just one viewpoint
has become increasingly evident
in the context of phenomena such as

decolonization
iconoclasm
cancel culture

Public condemnation and rejection of individuals,
due to their historical actions, beliefs, or statements that are
deemed offensive or unacceptable by current standards.

Many sculptures, viewed as offensive and outdated, have been vandalized or removed.
However, some have criticized it as a form of erasure of history
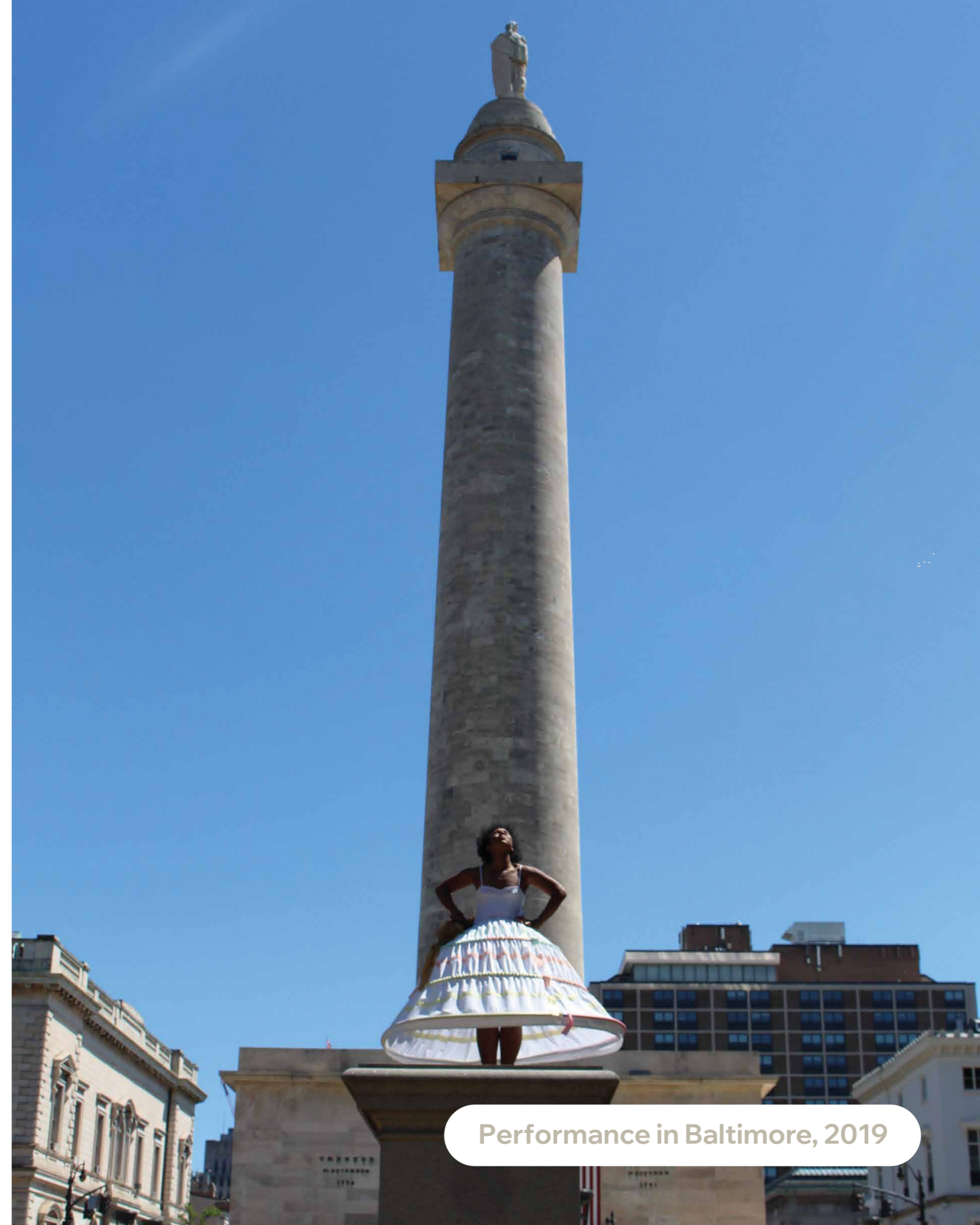
_____ amnesia

counter-sculpture

with the use of Augmented Reality (AR) technology adds an alternative narrative
and/or critical view of the events celebrated by the original sculpture,
this way adding another point of view

another *Memory* , to fuller represent the *History*

the Memorial of the murdered Jews of Euope

Performance in Baltimore, 2019

counter-monument
counter-memorial
anti- monumentalism

counter-sculpture

to or toward a different or opposite
direction, result, or effect

a three-dimensional work of art
(such as a statue)

counter-sculpture

to or toward a different or opposite
direction, result, or effect

a three-dimensional work of art
(such as a statue)

1. referring to the physical placement of the
   digital sculpture to the original physical one
2. as to the viewpoint it represents

counter-sculpture

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1. referring to the physical placement of the
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an individual voice, freedom of expression,
everyone can produce their own version

counter-sculpture

Amnesia *vs* Remembrance

Erasure Representation

Amnesia *vs* Remembrance

monument

Merriam-webster dictionary

1. object of remembrance, a lasting evidence, a reminder

"if we hypothetically didn't know anything about the past, we simply wouldn't know the difficulties that human beings before us encountered and what they did to resolve them."

studying ≠ celebrating
something

celebrating
something
as a model to follow

monument

Merriam-webster dictionary

1. object of remembrance, a lasting evidence, a reminder
2. a reminder of someone or something **notable** or **great**

Learning about famous events or individuals, through the monuments that portray them, is important "not because we think they were a great person, but because we think knowing the past of our species on this planet is useful, perhaps even necessary."

AR
Augmented Reality

permits to avoid physically altering or interfering with the original monuments, while providing an alternative point of view

enables creation of an immersive and interactive experience, which has the potential to engage contemporary audience

"It has always been the prerogative of ruling elites to determine the nature, placement and aesthetic of public monuments"

Harrington, 2023

The proposed approach is characterised by the freedom of aesthetical expression, individuality, and subjectivity.

Monument *of* Discoveries

constructed in 1940 to commemorate Infante D. Henrique, the most important figure in the beginning of the country's maritime expansion

By juxtaposing the

AR sculpture *of*
Velho do Restelo

with the Monument of Discoveries,
the project aims to challenge the dominant
narrative and provide an alternative per-
spective on the historical events depicted.

——————

AR counter-sculptures

——————

1. providing a space for expressing different perspectives or critical view of the events portrayed by the original sculpturest
2. offering a space for marginalized voices and alternative perspectives to be heard, challenging dominant narratives
3. promoting a more inclusive and accurate representation of history
4. offering an alternative to the physical interference with the existing monuments, thus helping to preserve cultural heritage
5. contributing to the remembrance, through revisiting and rereading old monuments in itself
6. creating engaging experience for younger audiences

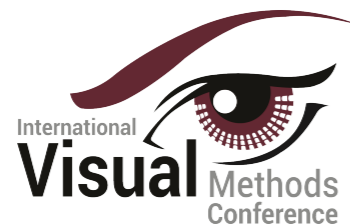add another *Memory* for fuller representation of *History*

If only there was this miraculous thing of everyone being capable of speaking up:
"but I know that our perspective is partial. There is also the exact opposite."

Alessandro Barbero, 2023

Grazie!

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International Visual Methods Conference

FCT Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia

PhD* Doctoral Program in Design

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