Since the Black Lives Matter movement at the latest, public memory has been highly contested again: Around the world, activists are toppling monuments, demanding the renaming of streets, intervening in historical narratives and imagining other memorials. Based on a seminar by Michaela Melián and Nora Sternfeld in the summer semester of 2021, the conference at the HFBK Hamburg deals with debates about monuments in public space and the associated aesthetics and politics of memory. The aim is to bring together different forms of knowledge as well as artistic and activist strategies from the fields of anti-fascist memory politics, anti-racist memorial demands and decolonial iconoclasms. In the process, we also encounter discourses and practices of a contested memorial culture in Germany, which was highly reflexive in the 1990s, has increasingly become a factor in tourism since the 2000s, and which is now being questioned particularly with regard to its postcolonial gaps. Questions in the context of the conference will be: Whose memory is manifested publicly? By what means? What is a “lieu de mémoire” in a neoliberal world? What should not be forgotten? And what role does iconoclasm play in this?
Counter-Monuments & Para-Monuments
Contested Memory in Public Space

02.12. — 04.12.2021

Hochschule für bildende Künste Hamburg
Lerchenfeld 2, 22081 Hamburg

Image: Annette Wehrmann, photography from the series Blumensprengungen, 1991-95, photo: Ort des Gegen e.V.

Conceived by Michaela Melián (Artist, Musician and Professor of Time-based Media, HFBK Hamburg) & Nora Sternfeld (Professor of Art Education, HFBK Hamburg)
Organised by Julia Stolba (PhD student, HFBK Hamburg)

The conference will be held in English.

The event will be recorded and can then be viewed at https://mediathek.hfbk.net.

Please refer to our website www.hfbk-hamburg.de for details on the hygiene regulations that apply at that time.

We offer all conference participants childcare facilities. Please register by November 29, 2021: studierenmitkind@hfbk.hamburg.de

Heba Y. Amin (Artist), Ulf Aminde (Artist), Lynhan Balatbat-Helbock (Curator and Researcher), Max Czollek (Poet and Journalist), Talya Feldman (Artist), Eduard Freudmann (Artist), Julia Friedrich (Artist Historian and Curator), Claas Gefroi (Architecture Theorist and Journalist), Ayşe Güleç (Curator, Art Educator and Activist Researcher), Minna Henriksson (Artist and Artistic Researcher), Lee Hielscher (Researcher and Activist), Leon Kahane (Artist), Martin Krenn (Artist, Artistic Researcher and Curator), Tania Mancheno (Researcher), Olu Oguibe (Artist), Daniela Ortiz (Artist and Activist), Anja Steidinger (Artist and Professor of Art Education, HFBK Hamburg), Stephan Trüby (Architecture Theorist and Publicist), Mirjam Zadoff (Historian and Director of the Munich Documentation Centre for the History of National Socialism)

Viewing area with installations by Para-City-Walks group in the four vitrines and video screenings by Junya Fujita, New Media Socialism Kervin Saint Pere in the Aula at HFBK.