

## FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS-RELEASE

**SANDRO ĐUKIĆ**

**The Silence That Tore Down The Monument**

Curated by Davorka Perić

22.4. – 29.5.2024

**OPENING: 22.4.2024, 6 - 9 PM**

**The artist and the project team are present.**

**LOCATION:** galerie michaela stock, Praterstraße 17, 1020 Vienna, Austria

**Visual artist Sandro Đukić's work will be presented with a virtual installation, graphic map, and documentation of the project "The Silence that Tore Down The Monument", a collective work of the community, artists, and technological experts. Sandro Đukić's new work is a reconstruction of the demolished anti-fascist monument, at the time when was the largest abstract sculpture in Europe created by modern sculptor Vojin Bakić in 1968.**

The exhibition in galerie michaela stock includes various elements such as graphics, video animation, and photo-video documentation, meticulously curated to illuminate the monument's rich history and the circumstances of its demolition. Additionally, a documentary film delves into the origins of the project, providing valuable context. In a notable event in 2023, a temporary installation of the monument was recreated at its original site in Croatia, presented on a twenty-meter LED screen. This stunning multimedia display, masterminded by Sandro Đukić, symbolizes a significant cultural response to the systematic erasure of history and social amnesia surrounding symbols, culture, art, and social paradigms. Additionally, the incorporation of augmented reality technology allows visitors to observe with a QR code the virtual 3D monument in the gallery space, further emphasizing the project's aim to bridge past and present through artistic expression.

The story behind the monument's destruction adds layers of complexity to the project. Planned and constructed from 1958 to 1968, Vojin Bakić's monumental sculpture built in Kamenska, Croatia, "The Monument to the Victory of the People of Slavonia" once stood as the European largest abstract sculpture. It was a thirty-meter-high stainless-steel monument. However, in 1992, members of the Croatian army demolished it using dynamite after multiple unsuccessful attempts, despite official reports attributing the collapse to "strong winds." Three decades later, the curator of the project discovered meteorological data proving there was no wind that day. The air was so calm that it was officially termed "Silence" by the Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Institute. This silence, along with the total lack of government and media reaction, inspired the project's name "The Silence That Tore Down The Monument".

During the tumultuous 90s in former Yugoslavia, *Damnatio Memoriae* and collective amnesia took hold. For this very reason, Đukić urged us to challenge the notion of decline and neglect, especially concerning the disappearance of modernist and industrial heritage in his earlier artworks. His collaboration with the local community, other artists, and technological experts highlights his dedication to this new art project to reconstruct the monument and delve into the intersection of art, technology, and social memory.

In the piece *The Silence That Tore Down the Monument* we recognize the collage of archival materials and the interpretation of artistic heritage with the application of new media art as the recognizable visual language of Sandro Đukić. For Đukić, the empty place, the place of devastation, the pedestal of the former monumental sculpture by Bakić, becomes the chosen place of a new beginning. In new virtual constructs, and with the help of Augmented Reality technology, collective memory and artistic interpretation fill that vacant place.

*In addition to the author Sandro Đukić, the following participated in the realization of the project as part of the author's team: Milorad Pupovac (project concept), Davorka Perić (project curator) and Lana Lovrenčić (author of the discursive program)..Excerpts from the text by Davorka Perić*

*The project was produced with the support of the Serb National Council*

## **Event Details**

**SANDRO ĐUKIĆ      The Silence That Tore Down The Monument**

**Exhibition Dates:** 22.4. – 29.5.2024

**Location:** galerie michaela stock, Praterstraße 17, 1020 Vienna, Austria

**Opening Reception:** 22.04.2024, 6 – 9 PM

## **PRESS IMAGES / TEXT**

We would appreciate a report/mentioning in your medium.

We hereby confirm the approval for the free of charge publication of all sent images / text.

Courtesy: Sandro Đukić / galerie michaela stock

### **Image 1:**

Genesis / The Silence That Tore Down The Monument, 2023

Inkjet print, Ed: 3 + AP, 100 x 40 cm

Courtesy: Sandro Đukić / galerie michaela stock

### **Image 2:**

arch\_ The Silence That Tore Down The Monument\_003, 2023

pigment print, Ed: 3 + AP, 101,5 x 57 cm, framed

Courtesy: Sandro Đukić / galerie michaela stock

### **Image 3:**

arch\_ The Silence That Tore Down The Monument \_012, 2023

pigment print, Ed: 3 + AP, 101,5 x 57 cm, framed

Courtesy: Sandro Đukić / galerie michaela stock

### **Image 4:**

arch\_ The Silence That Tore Down The Monument \_018, 2023

pigment print, Ed: 3 + AP, 101,5 x 57 cm, framed

Courtesy: Sandro Đukić / galerie michaela stock

### **Image 5:**

arch\_ The Silence That Tore Down The Monument \_032, 2023

pigment print, Ed: 3 + AP, 101,5 x 57 cm, framed

Courtesy: Sandro Đukić / galerie michaela stock

For media inquiries, high-resolution images, or interview requests, please contact:

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## **galerie michaela stock**

Praterstraße 17, 1020 Vienna, Austria [www.galerie-stock.net](http://www.galerie-stock.net)

opening hours: Wednesday to Friday: 3 - 7 pm, Saturday 11 am – 3 pm