



## Monuments

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Monuments are shaped objects created and installed for the purpose of preserving images of specific events in the memory of the beholder for as long as possible. The subject to be remembered can be a range of topics, for example, an anniversary of a national event, an achievement of an individual, or a calamity. Most of these monuments have a public nature and are installed in places where they can be viewed by many people.

As public works and monuments were deemed necessary for modern nations, when modern art schools were established in countries of Asia including Japan, conscious efforts were made to adopt training methods of Western sculpture. However, looking back on the history of sculpture education in Japan, there was a gap between the principle of installing three-dimensional figures as public objects for national use, and the creation of three-dimensional figures such as Buddhist statues and dolls, which was undertaken by the artisan class for a long time, and thus sculpture education had its fair share of trial and error in its initial stages.

The monuments created under these circumstances have also frequently undergone changes. As monuments have the aspect of reflecting the country's cultural policy, there are more than a few cases where they have been removed or exchanged in order to align with the changes in social structures and the values of the people. Images of the masses pulling down statues commemorating statesmen have been seen around the world. While monuments by nature pursue permanence, they are by no means unchanging both in terms of physical and symbolic significance.

## Reference

- Odawara Nodoka, *SCULPTURE1*(topofil, 2018)