

Dragana Stojanović

- Haver Serbia
- Shoah Lab, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory
- Contact e-mail: dragana@haver.rs

Culture of Remembrance in Serbia:

Holocaust memory culture in its diverse modalities and layers



short introduction + a lot of examples

Lecture topics overview

1. Main questions regarding memory culture
2. Holocaust memorial culture in Serbia: historical overview
3. Case studies and analyses: Holocaust-related memory spaces in Serbia

Modality	Discursive key
a. Monumental culture	a. Narrational point of view
b. Countermonumental culture	b. Representational point of view

Significance for
education

How to grasp the complexity of memorial culture?

- ▶ Different disciplinary approaches
- ▶ *Whose memory? representational memory*
- ▶ How is it told? *narrational memory*
- ▶ Memory or remembrance?
- ▶ Political, cultural & communicative memory (Halbwachs, 1950)
- ▶ Memory transmission/memory communication (Debray, 1996)

Holocaust memorial culture in Serbia: a complex remembrance map

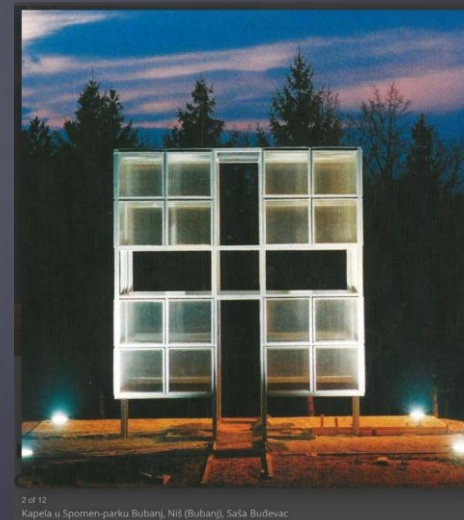
1. Historical and political context of the times of the Holocaust in present Serbia

2. Yugoslav socialist period & collective identities

3. After 1990: adding, layering, overwriting

4. Post-2000 memory culture: renovation and religion-related additions

5. Contemporary practices in the Holocaust memorialization



Holocaust memorial culture in Serbia: case studies and examples:

1

Places of public remembrance

Belgrade/Jajinci

Jabuka

Zasavica

Novi Sad

Niš

Kragujevac

2

Places of communal remembrance

Belgrade

Novi Sad

Kanjiža

3

(Re)created places, places in its dissemination and activity, contemporary initiatives

Newer countermonumental practices

Educational spaces

Disseminational spaces

Digital places

Creating places as lived experiences



Places of public remembrance



enjenu istoriju



"NA PROSTORU STAROGA SAJMIŠTA NEMAČKI
GESTAPO OSNOVAO JE 1941 GODINE LOGOR
"SAJMIŠTE" U KOME JE, UZ POMOĆ DOMAĆIH
IZDAJNIKA, SVIREPO MUČENO I UBIJENO PREKO
40.000 LJUDI IZ SVIH KRAJEVA NAŠE ZEMLJE"



PREDSEDNIŠTVO MO
UBNOR-A
I DPO MZ ST. SAJMIŠTE

"NA PROSTORU STAROGA SAJMIŠTA NEMAČKI
GESTAPO OSNOVAO JE 1941 GODINE LOGOR
"SAJMIŠTE" U KOME JE, UZ POMOĆ DOMAĆIH
IZDAJNIKA, SVIREPO MUČENO I UBIJENO PREKO
40.000 LJUDI IZ SVIH KRAJEVA NAŠE ZEMLJE"



PREDSEDNIŠTVO MO
UBNOR-A
I DPO MZ ST. SAJMIŠTE

ОВДЕ, НА САЈМИШТУ, У НАЦИСТИЧКОМ КОНЦЕНТРАЦИОНОМ ЛОГОРУ, ЗА ВРЕМЕ ОКУПАЦИЈЕ
ЈУГОСЛАВИЈЕ ОД 1941. ДО 1944. ИЗВРШЕН ЈЕ РАТНИ ЗЛОЧИН И ГЕНОЦИД НАД ОКО 50
ХИЉАДА РОДОЉУБА, УЧЕСНИКА НАРОДНОСЛОБОДИЛАЧНЕ БОРБЕ, НАД ДЕЦОМ, ЖЕНАМА И
СТАРЦИМА. СВАКИ ДРУГИ ЗАТОЧЕНИК УБИЈЕН ЈЕ У ЛОГОРУ ИЛИ НА СТРАТИШТИМА: ЧЕДЉИ,
БЕЖАНИЈСКА КОСА, ЈАБУКА И ОСТРОВАЧКА АЛА. МНОГИ СУ ОДРЕЂЕНИ У НЕМАЧКИ ЛОГОР
СМРТИ ШИРОМ ОКУПИРАНЕ ЕВРОПЕ. НАЈВИШЕ ЈЕ СТРАДАЛО СРБА, ЈЕВРЕЈА И РОМА,
ЊИМА, ЖРТВАМА ЗЛОГЛАСНОГ УСТАШКОГ ЛОГОРА ЈАСЕНОВАЦ И ЖРТВАМА ПАВЛОВИЋ
ОКУПАТОРА КОЈЕ СУ ДО БЕОГРАДА ДОНЕЛИ ТАМАСИ САВЕ И ДУНАВА, КРАЈЕМ ОКО
НАЦИСТИЧКОМ ТЕРОРУ ЮСЕМИ ЈУГОСЛОВЕНИМА ЖРТВАМА ГЕНОЦИДА ПОСВЕЋЕНИ
СПОМЕНИК.

БЕОГРАД, ПОВОРОК ДИНА СЕМИНА ПОЖИТЕ
ПРИБИЛИ 22. 04. СРЕЊИЧЕВИЋИ. ПОБЛЕ
НАЦИСТИЧКОМ



Placed on 22 April, Day of Holocaust and genocide victims
(exists from 1992!)



Bodnarov & Kabiljo 1951.



Dolinar (1954-1959)

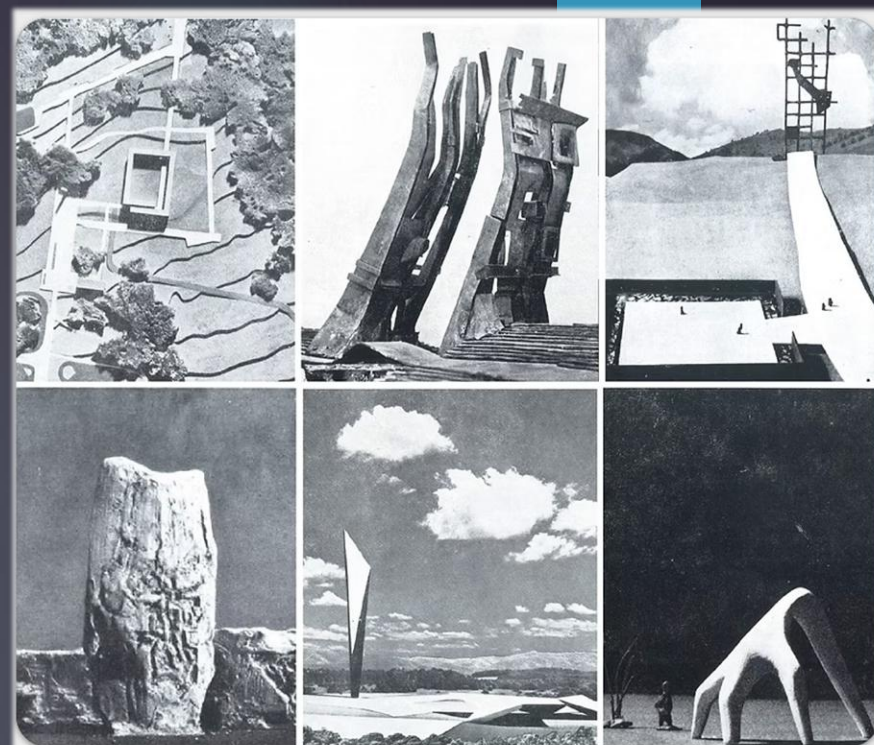


Photo 5: Unrealized Jajinci memorial concepts from the 1978 competition. Kolacio & Radovani's is in the upper left

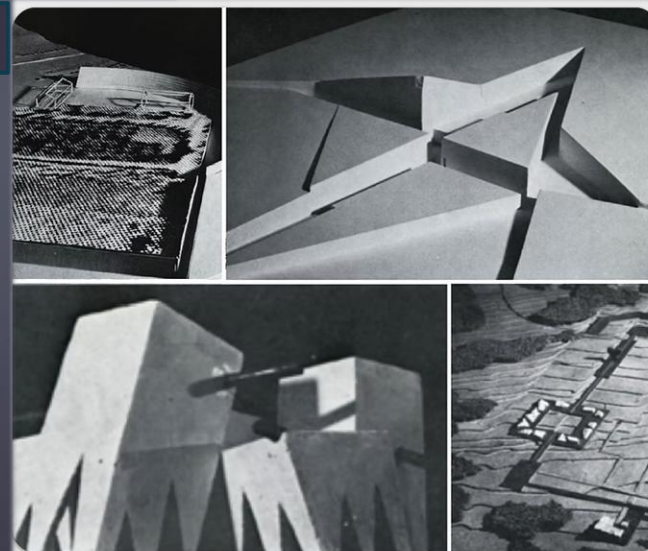


Photo 6: Unrealized Jajinci memorial concepts from the 1980 competition. Marko Mušič's proposal is in the upper left



Jajinci spomenik (Stojić 1988)

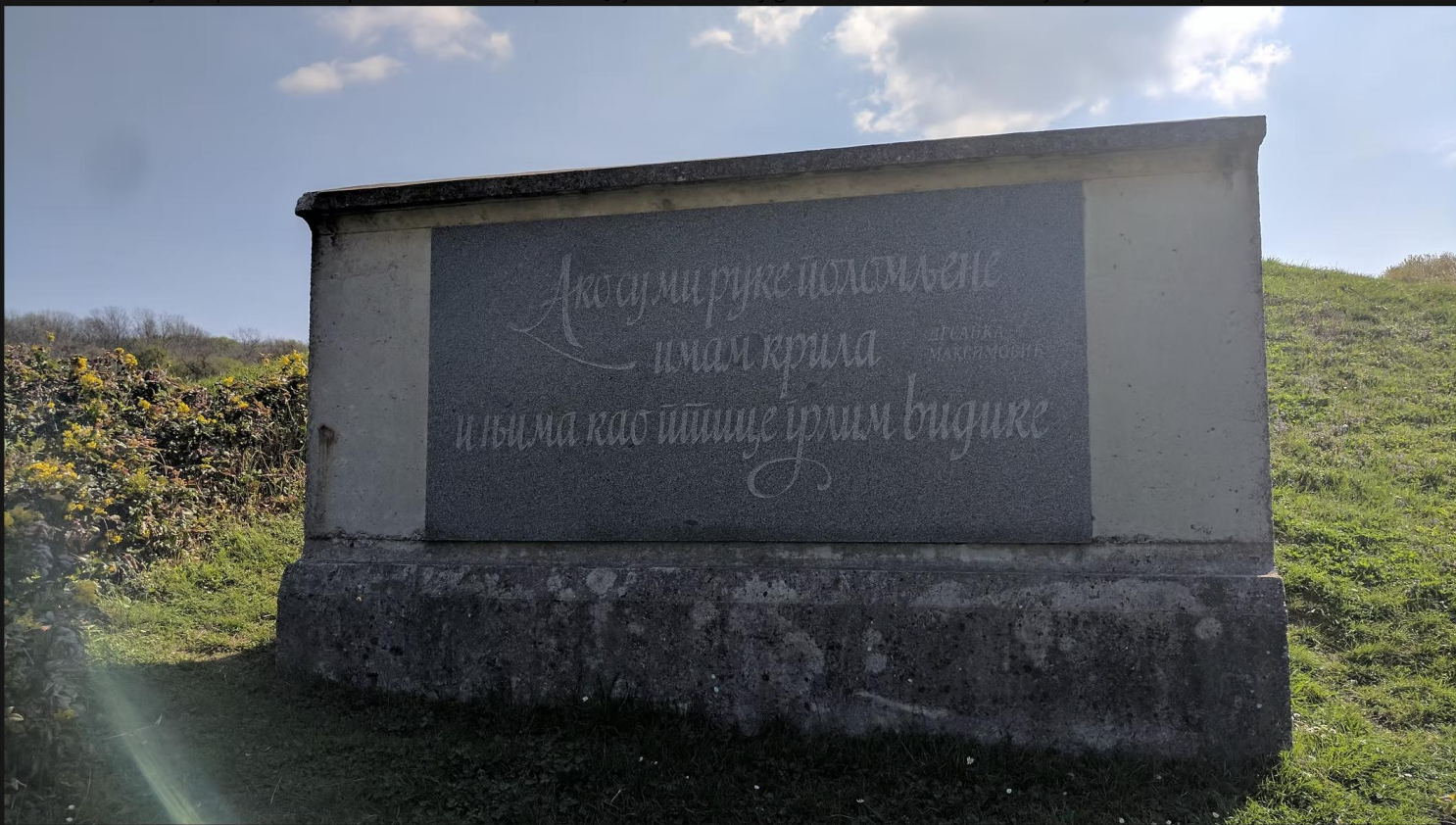
A view of the central sculpture at the Jajinci memorial complex and spomenik park in Belgrade, Serbia.



Photo 8: Row of fence post artifacts at the Jajinci memorial

Jajinci (Јајинци)
(yah-YEENtsee)

Unveiled on Oct 1st, 44 years since
Liberation of Belgrade

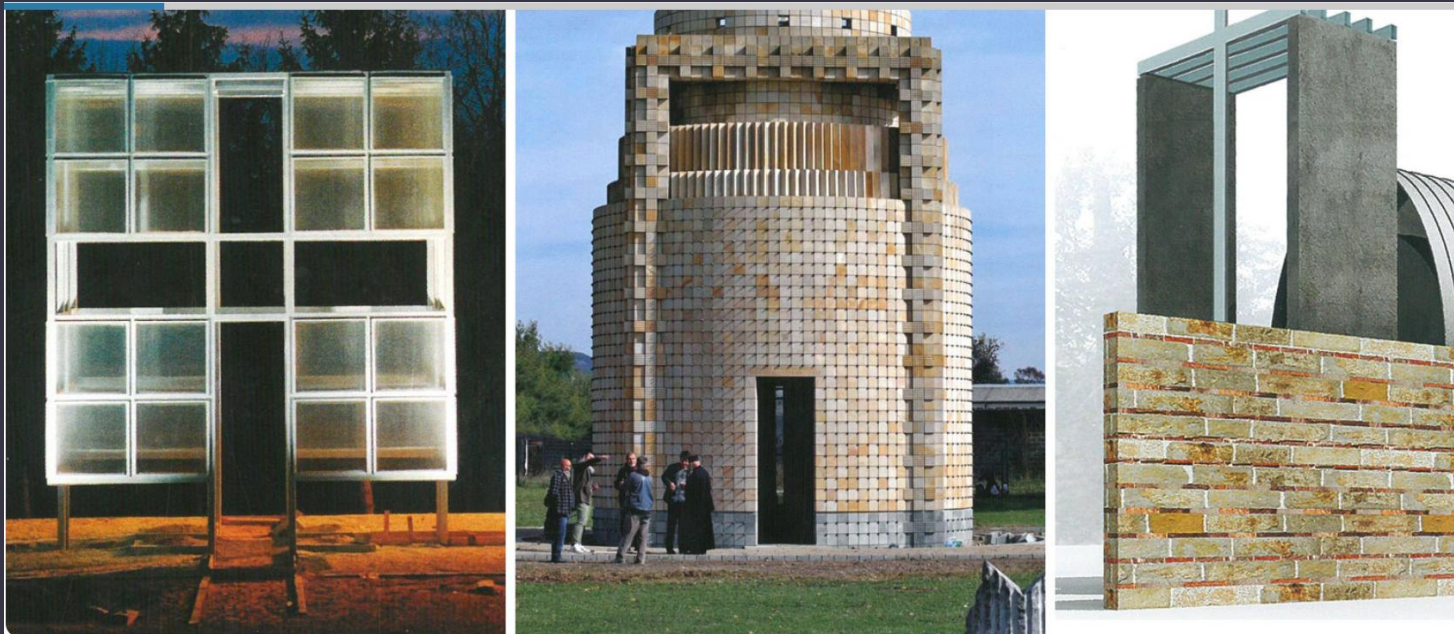


Jajinci spomenik (engravings)



4 of 12
Memorijalni hram Svetih Ćirila i Metodija, Beograd (Jajinci), Branislav Mitrović i Boris Podreka





Arhitektura memorijalnih crkava



ARHITEKTURA

Memorijalni hramovi – najviši dometi na polju pravoslavne sakralne arhitekture



Marko Stojanović, 22.04.2020. | ⌚ 8 min za čitanje

Memorijalni hramovi u Donjoj Gradini, Jajincima, Kraljevu i Nišu predstavljaju najviše domete na polju pravoslavne sakralne arhitekture.

Danas je **Dan sećanja na žrtve Holokausta i genocida**, pa je možda pravi trenutak da tim povodom rasvetlimo jedno do sada zapostavljeno polje – arhitekturu memorijalnih hramova, kojima se dodatno čuva uspomena na tragično nastradale civilne žrtve Drugog svetskog rata.



Opened on 25th anniversary of the Allied Liberation of the camp (Oct 5)





Jabuka (Јабука)

Jabuka spomenik (Delja 1981)

(YAH-bao-kah)

A view of the WWII memorial sculpture at the Stratište Memorial Complex located near Jabuka, Serbia.



dition, above and below the raised-letter inscription on the circular plaque were inscribed two Yugoslav stars, more than likely as a reference to the poem. However, sometime around 1990, the plaque was removed and the monument became the focus of theft. Firstly the bronze

Jabuka spomenik (engravings)



Monument to Fallen Fighters at Sefkerin:
Roughly 17km northwest of Stratište complex you will

Jabuka spomenik (museum)



Monument to Fallen Fighters at Sefkerin:

Roughly 17km northwest of Stratište complex you w

Jabuka spomenik (museum)

Unveiled on 22 Nov, 40 years since the onset of over-titons

sculp
2019
resto
Panče

Plac

Along
a rou
this h
letter
was c
trans

This v
Vasko
WWII
conce
near
in ref
mean
cut d

In addition, above and below the raised-letter inscription on the circular plaque were installed two Yugoslav stars, more than likely as a reference to the poem. However, sometime around 2012, the monument became the focus of theft. Firstly the bronze letters were all removed from the plaque, as seen in Slide 2, then by 2013 even the plaque itself was removed from its pedestal, as seen in Slide 3.



Jabuka spomenik (engravings)



Condition circa 2015
Via Z.Stojanović.Graovo@Panoramio

Jabuka (Јабука)
(YAH-baa-kah) Jabuka spomenik (Delja 1981)

A 2015 view of the WWII memorial sculpture at the Stratište Memorial Complex located near Jabuka, Serbia.

Unveiled on 22 Nov, 40 years since the onset of executions



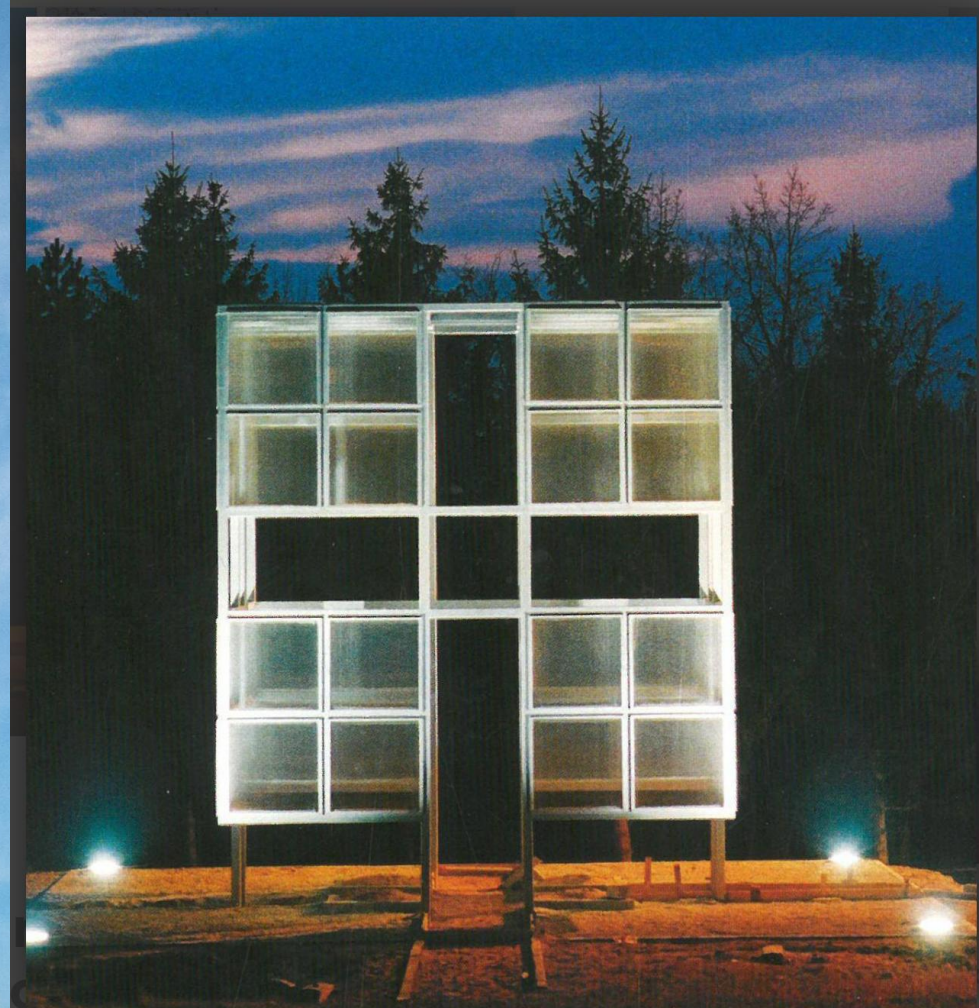
© Olga Ungar, Photographer: Ungar, Olga, 2023





© Olga Ungar, Photographer: Ungar, Olga, 2023





2 of 12

Kapela u Spomen-parku Bujanj, Niš (Bujanj), Saša Buđevac

1963, Ivan Sabolić





The Family, Jovan Soldatović 1971.



Milorad Zorbić, 1991



Miodrag Živković, 1963

Nandor Glid, 100 for 1, 1980





Places of communal remembrance



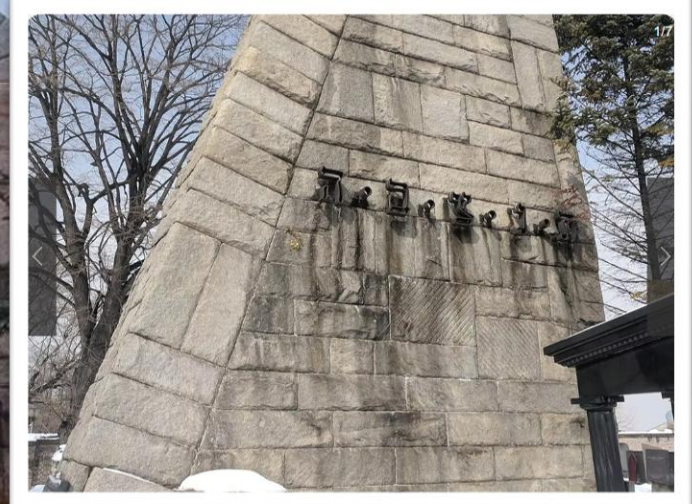
Nandor Glid, 1990



Zoran Jovanović, 2014



Photo 6: A broken Jewish gravestone in the monument's pathway



Belgrade (Београд)

Monument to Jewish Victims - Belgrad

Bogdan Bogdanović, 1952

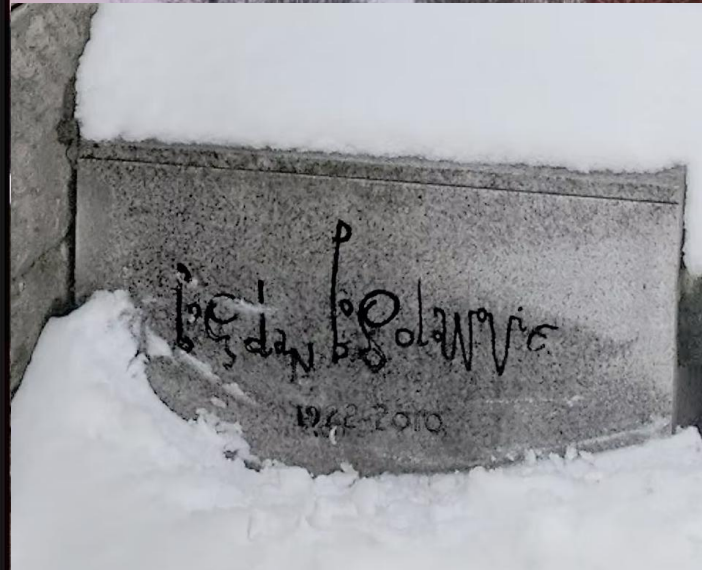


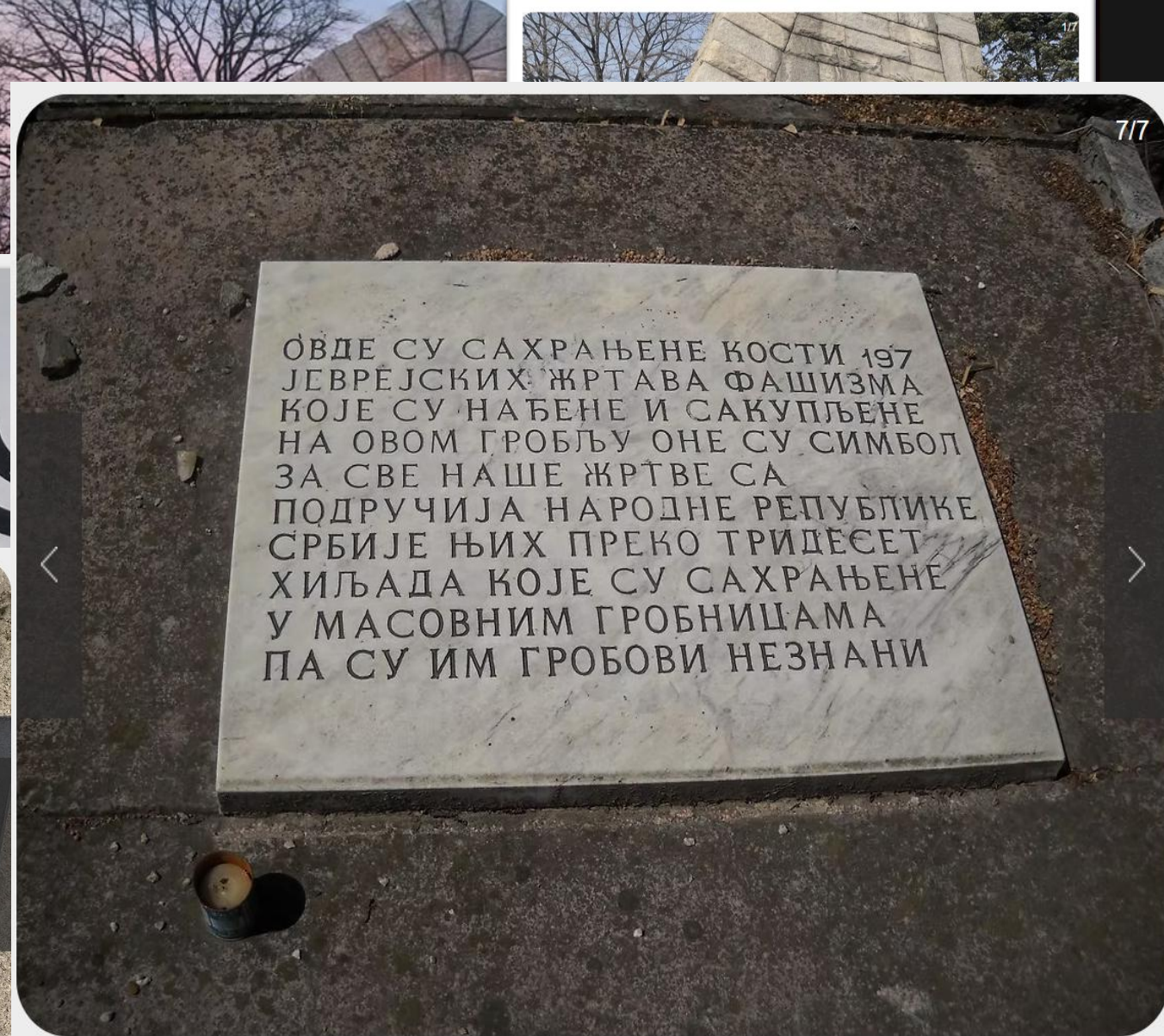
Photo 7: A photo of the menorah sculpture at the Jewish cemetery monument



Belgrade (Београд)

Monument to Jewish Victims - Belgrad

Bogdan Bogdanović, 1952



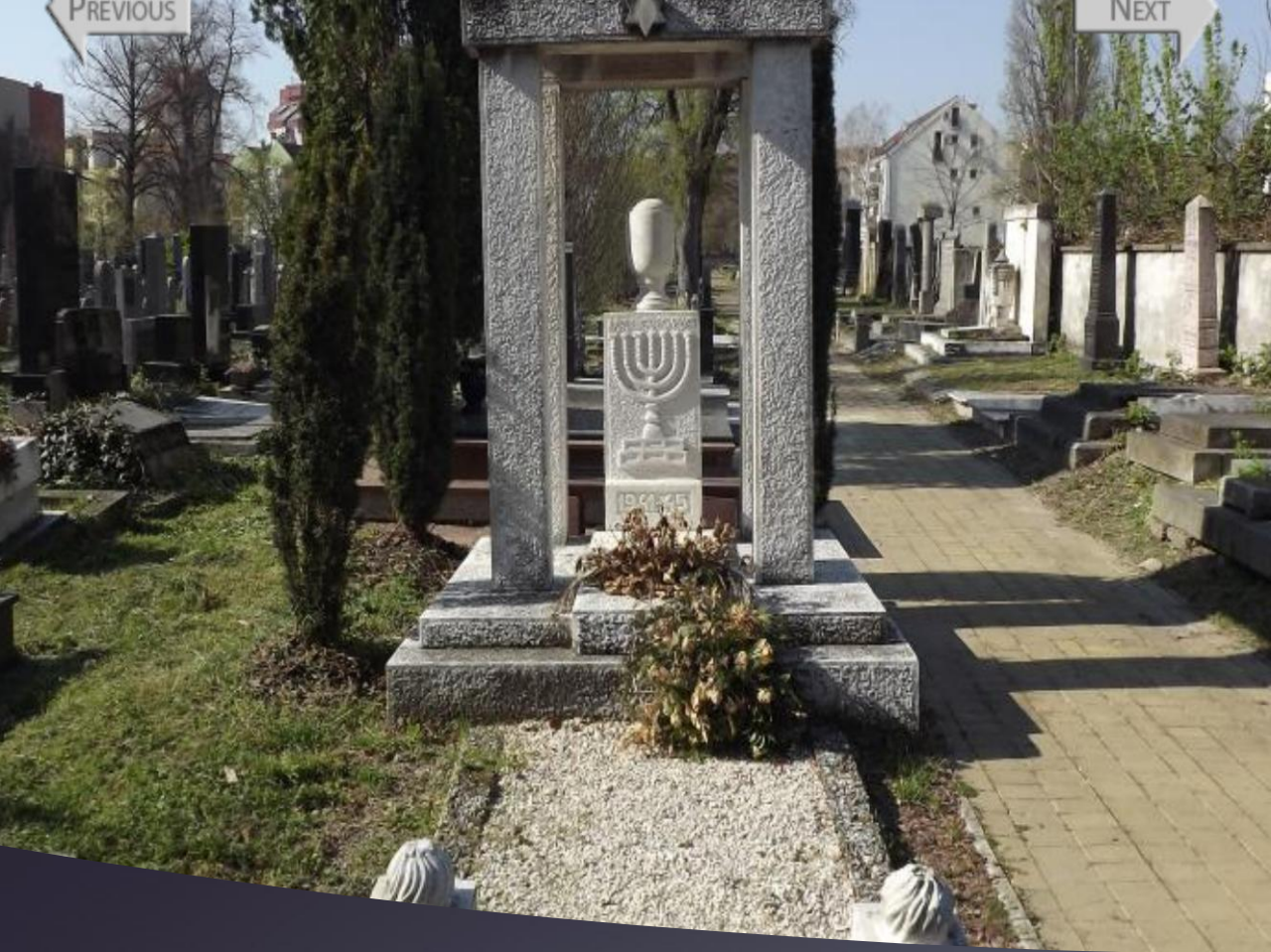
Belgrade (Београд)

Monument to Jewish Victims - Belgrad

Bogdan Bogdanović, 1952




Anri Meshulam, 1959



Dejan Bešlin, 1952



Artist unknown, 1948



**(Re)created places,
places in dissemination and activity,
contemporary initiatives**



Stolperstein,
Initiative of Haver Serbia

2018 first initiative

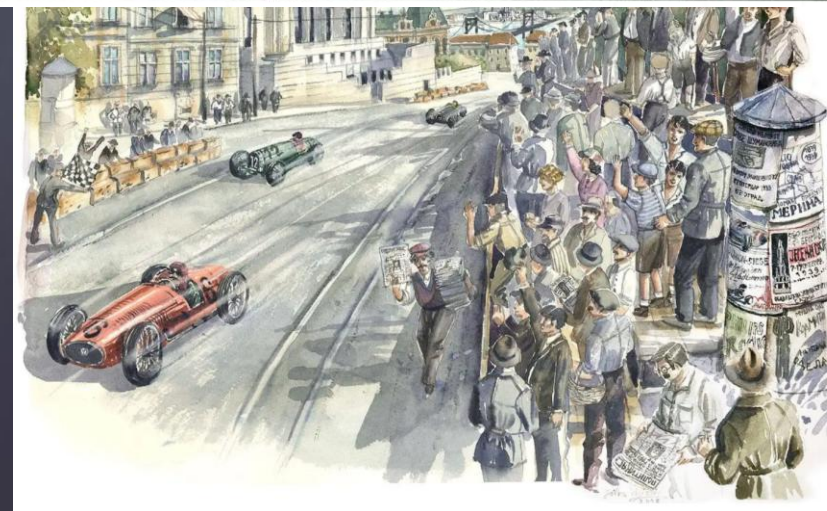
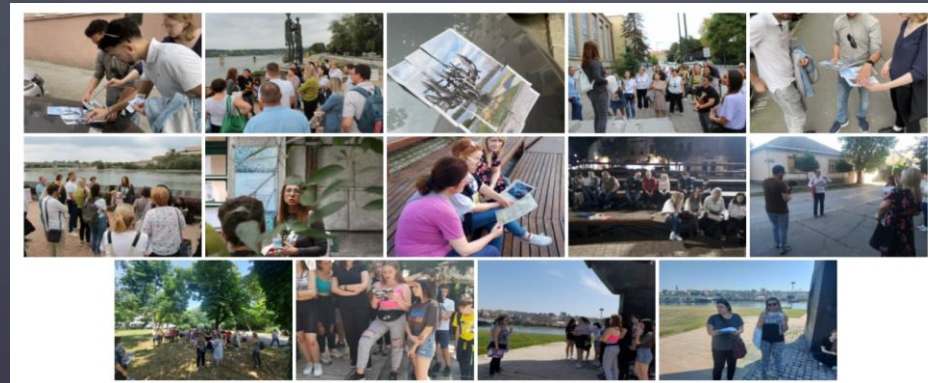
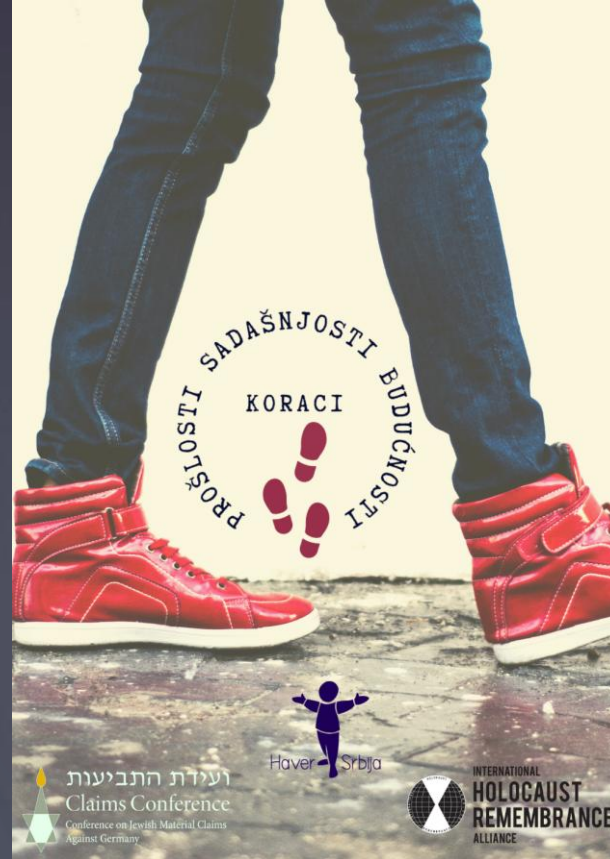
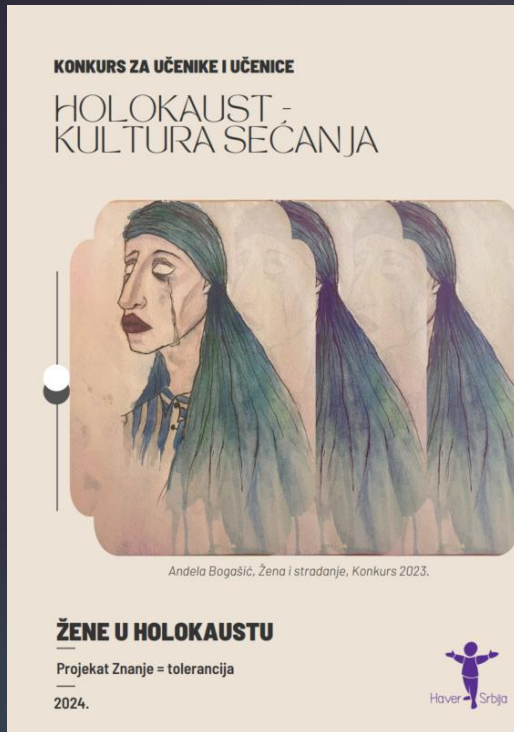
2021 first stone (Zrenjanin, Novi Bečej)

2022 Belgrade (10 stones, 5 locations, 4 families)



Foto: Haver Srbija

- Testimony-based learning
- Creative, artistic, and educational workshops
- Walking tours
- Exhibitions
- Graphic novels and comics
- Digital storytelling and mapping



Museum Exhibitions as Monuments of Holocaust Remembrance?

- ▶ Jewish Historical Museum
 - ▶ Museum of Genocide Victims
 - ▶ Museum of Vojvodina (Novi Sad)
 - ▶ National Museum Šabac
 - ▶ Museum 21 October (Kragujevac)
- ▶ A monument that changes and evolves with its curators and its audience
 - ▶ Fact-based learning
 - ▶ Embodied learning



Sources:

- ▶ Bergson, Henri [1988]. *Matter and Memory*. New York: Zone.
- ▶ Debray, Régis [1996]. *Media Manifestos: On the Technological Transmission of Cultural Forms*. London/New York: Verso.
- ▶ Levi, Aleksandar [1954] Spomenici Jevrejima borcima i žrtvama fašizma [Memorials to the Jews victims of fascism]. *Jevrejski almanah* [Jewish almanac]. Beograd: Savez jevrejskih opština Jugoslavije [Federation of Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia], 117-122
- ▶ Pisarri, Milovan [2017] Staro Sajmište: Bitka oko Istorije. *Mašina*. <https://www.masina.rs/staro-sajmiste-bitka-oko-istorije/>, accessed July 2025
- ▶ Popescu, Diana I. [2015] Introduction: Memory and Imagination in the Post-Witness Era. *Revisiting Holocaust Representation in the Post-Witness Era*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 1-7
- ▶ Stevanović, Nina [2017] *Architectural Heritage of Yugoslav-Socialist Character: Ideology, Memory, and Identity*. PhD dissertation. Barcelona: Universidad Politecnica de Catalunya.
- ▶ Stipić, Davor [2021] Spomenici žrtvama Holokausta u socijalističkoj Jugoslaviji 1945-1991. Lecture. <https://jevrejskadigitalnabiblioteka.rs/handle/123456789/1744>, accessed June 2025
- ▶ Young, James E. [1993] *The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- ▶ Young, James E. [2015] Countermonuments as Spaces for Deep Memory. *Revisiting Holocaust Representation in the Post-Witness Era*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 44-52
- ▶ Web bases:
 - ▶ <https://cja.huji.ac.il/browser.php>, accessed June/July 2025
 - ▶ <https://memorijalnicentar.rs/>, accessed June/July 2025
 - ▶ <https://www.jevrejskadigitalnabiblioteka.rs>, accessed June/July 2025
 - ▶ <https://www.spomenikdatabase.org/>, accessed June/July 2025



Thank you!

Questions
Further discussions
Reflections
Your examples



are
welcome!

Dragana Stojanović

- Haver Serbia
- Shoah Lab, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory
- Contact e-mail: dragana@haver.rs