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Public Sculpture and Monuments of Gospić from 1990 until Today

Abstract

In an effort to include and valorize sculptures and monuments in the public spaces of Gospić, this paper covers the period from 1990 to the present.⁴⁹ As the city of Gospić consists of 50 settlements, the paper deals only with memorials and sculptures at Gospić, with their greatest concentration, among others, in the very center of the town – Alojzije Stepinac Square and Kolakovac Park. Despite thematically and typologically different sculptural works, their placement into the urban tissue is in a specific way related to the contemporary life of Gospić, as well as its society and politics. The influence of the Homeland War and other political, as well as social circumstances on the construction and removal of sculptures and public monuments at the very transition from the 20th to the 21st century is quite indicative. The work also critically observes the installation of recent artistically executed memorials in

49 The work is a result of the author's guest lecture, held at the Department of Teacher Studies in Gospić (University of Zadar) on January 17th, 2019, and is thematically and chronologically related to the author's work *Public Sculpture and Monuments of Gospić during the 19th and 20th century (1870 – 1989)* published in *Lička Revija*, no. 13 (2014), p. 44-65.

Gospić and analyses the monument inventory from previous years. It also deals with conceptual sculptures which appeared in the public space of Gospić along with numerous busts after 2010, and finally, with the project of returning and re-erecting of the monument to Nikola Tesla by sculptor Fran Kršinić.

Key words: contemporary sculptors, busts, Gospić, monuments, public sculpture