MONUMENTS DECODER
The Socrateens went out into the Astoria community on the search for new perspectives and conversations about monuments.
What should I represent?
Who should I be?
Where should I go?

Who am I?
What do I stand for?

Monument?
Has a monument ever evoked any emotion?

Has a monument ever made you angry?
Do you find statues and monuments boring?

They're good. It's history after all.
- JEFF

They're mostly dull, so yes...
- ROMAN

I LOVE art! No way!
- JEFF
DO YOU FEEL LIKE THE MONUMENTS REPRESENT YOU?

Ha, yep. Frankly, I don't exactly care.

who? me? OH! Yeah, no. But then again I don't expect to be.

You see, it's not really something I think about. Nor is it something that's very important. It's of value to step forward, not dwell in the past.

Hmm... a little ignorant, don't you think?
Do monuments create dialogue?
Do you know about the controversy around monuments?

I don't know anything about the controversy. I don't like to get into those things.
Why does Columbus get a Circle?
I committed mass genocide.

I took advantage of Native Americans then I slaughtered them.

I am responsible for the rape of many women!!

I invaded and brought diseases to the New land. I tortured many Native Americans!
"SEE NO DIFFERENCE"

Are they any different?
Has a monument ever made you angry?

I cannot appreciate pro-hate statues. — Jeff

No, but the controversy has. I can't spend 3 weeks on a boat, so he (Columbus) should be commemorated for that. — George
Is there a benefit to having controversial monuments?

Yes, they serve as a reminder and should be put in museums.
Where are the female monuments?

Uhhh...
DO YOU FEEL THAT MONUMENTS CAN CREATE DIALOGUES?

YES I DO.

THEY START CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS.

INSTEAD OF FINDING A "SOLUTION", PEOPLE CAN AT LEAST BECOME AWARE OF ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE.
SHOULD WE BREAK DOWN MONUMENTS ???

ST-STAY AWAY!!
YES! WE HAVE ENOUGH REMINDERS OF THE PAST MISTAKES WE'VE MADE. ALSO, THE ARTISTS THAT CREATED THIS CREATED THEM WITH THE INTENT OF REPRESENTING THESE MONSTERS POSITIVELY! ABSURD!

HOW COULD YOU CALL AMAZING ARTWORK ABSURD! A HUMAN MADE THIS WITH THE INTENT TO VISUALLY ILLUSTRATE THEIR ARTISTIC STYLE. IT MAY PORTRAY CONTROVERSIAL FIGURES, BUT THE CRAFTSMANSHIP ASPECT IS VISUALLY ADMIRABLE!
Monuments matter because they are pleasing to look at when you’re walking through an environment you wouldn’t expect to see something architectural.

They may be nice to look at, but not when they depict an evil figure shadowing already pleasing environments!!

They fill empty spaces and make you think! Isn’t it interesting when you run into something you feel the need to observe?!
Who would you like to see a monument of?

Professors. Everyone learns from them.
- George

An important person—not necessarily a famous one. It's too easy to make people respect fame.
- Frank

Let the people decide!
- Roman

A community member?
- Jeff
What makes Someone Monument Worthy?

I feel it shouldn't be someone who did NOT spread positivity and good because we need more Art to express good and positive changes.
IF YOU CAN MAKE A MONUMENT TO AN IDEA, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

NYC MONUMENTS:

PIGEON

COFFEE

PIZZA?
I, one of the greatest thinkers of all time, dare to ask thee this inquisitive question!

If you could make a monument an idea, what would it be?

If it were up to me, I'd make monuments be about young people's accomplishments.

It gets boring seeing a bunch of dead white guys. Bring on the youth!

I think I'd make stuff out of world issues. Mental health and climate change are pretty huge.
Do you feel that everyone should have the freedom to create a monument?

I feel like their should be regulations implied before a monument is visible to the public. People should be encouraged to create them and express themselves but only if they will be a constructive addition to the monument dialogue.
What do you think monuments will look like in the future?

Holograms!

-Johnnaila.
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