The Outmoded Memory: Bogdan Bogdanović, Yugoslav War Memorials, and the Landscapes of Postsocialism

Bogdan Bogdanović (1922-2010) was a Yugoslav architect, theorist, professor, and a one-time mayor of Belgrade. A self-professed Surrealist and an erudite student of anthropological literature, Bogdanović designed some twenty idiosyncratic memorials to the victims and heroes of World War II scattered around the former Yugoslavia. These projects radically redrew the boundaries between architecture, landscape, and sculpture, at the same time recovering what rapid postwar modernization was in the process of outmoding: from the fragments of demolished buildings, to vernacular ornaments and traditional building techniques.

After the demise of Yugoslavia, many of Bogdanović’s works, like many other antifascist memorials across the country, have become outmoded themselves, only to reemerge in the recent years as mediatized images, disembodied and emptied of their rich original meanings.

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