

## Exhibition proposal for Personal Structures 2022

**Lost Isms | 2022 | Martin George | Sculpture, performance**

*[My generation was raised on a diet of 'The Simpsons' and 'South Park', for whom postmodern irony and cynicism is a default setting, I have a pragmatic idealism, a moderate fanaticism; my art explores tension between sincerity and irony.]<sup>1</sup>*

**"I want to lead with a foot of enquiry"**



Why cut down a monument? When it's cut down does it disappear and reappear somewhere else? Do they become refugees? Do we look on them kindly, are *Lost Isms* ever actually lost?

What does it mean to cut down an ism, do we associate it with the funeral of an idea, do we mourn or celebrate the transition from one manifestation to another, should we fight to save isms?

### **Sculptural performance**

The proposed sculptural performance will manifest in three main parts. The first chapter will be in the *Marinaressa Public Gardens*, the sculpture stands for several months, proud, strong and perfect, a pure modernist form with a hidden narrative.



The second chapter will be the ceremonially "desecration" by Martin George, with the use of an axe. The sacked monument will be carried on his shoulders to the Palazzo Mora. This part may takes several hours as it will be heavy, far and difficult. there may be several stops but it will be an endurance piece. It will be carried and placed in the garden.



The third chapter will be the display on the gravel. The final presentation of *lost Isms* needs to be sombre, the sculpture is in obvious distress as it lies down close to the ground with cut wounds to the base. I believe that this is where the enquiry becomes most potent, the sacking, the expelling, the cancelling, the display.

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<sup>1</sup> Timotheus Vermeulen & Robin van den Akker in 'Notes on metamodernism', *Journal of Aesthetics & Culture*, Vol. 2, 2010.