

Worksheet - The Test for Patriarchal Structures

Who are you?

What is your 'point of view', in terms of privileges, discrimination and experiences of marginality?

Who is questioning this monument? What kind of body is questioning this monument?

What materiality, size and shape does the monument have? Explore the monument from all sides, touch it, look at it, listen to the stories it tells you through its appearance.

What does it tell you in relation to your body, to your identities and to your experiences?

What is the aim of this monument? What does it commemorate or worship? What does it communicate?

Who is at the centre of this monument / of its narration? Does the monument differentiate between genders? Is one gender more visible than the other?

What characteristics are worshipped with this monument? (Characteristics could be bravery, strength, intelligence, nationalism, sacrifice, being caring...)

Are the characteristics represented by this monument directly connected to a gender, like 'for the brave sons of the fatherland'? Would these characteristics be defined by patriarchal thought as male or female? (For example: strength is male, softness is female, a tower is male, a cave is female ...)

What does the monument state as 'the norm' or as 'something to be worshipped and elevated'?

What forms of power and/or domination does the monument represent or symbolise? (E.g. does it represent an institution, a god, the state? Are these forms of power or domination male or female? For example, the catholic church has a male god and male leaders; An example for a form of female power would be a female goddess or a matriarch.)

How are these forms of power represented? (They could be intimidating, elevated, violent, impressive, small, discreet or supportive...)

How does this monument consider and/or represent female experiences? (e.g. directly through showing a woman who prepares a meal, or indirectly through their absence, for example when women are the ones who are visiting the monument, or maybe it represents only a specific female experience like motherhood, or only considers experiences of white hetero cis women of the social elites)

How does this monument consider and/or represent male experiences?

What human experiences are left out by the monument? (thinking about race, class, age, religion, body form, physical and mental (dis)ability, nationality, income...)

What does all of this tell you about social structures? Who has power in the social narration of this monument? Who is subordinated and marginalised? (If women and/or female attributes are subordinated, not present, marginalised and men and/or male attributes are dominant, this is a patriarchal monument.)

Re-read or re-listen your own answers. Take notes while you do that. Condense your answers into statements, as if patriarchy is talking out of the monument. (e.g.: men are important. It is the norm for men to be strong and brave fighters. Women are not important. Women are white, pretty, caring mothers.)