

Death by Drowning

In Memory of Laye-Alama Condé

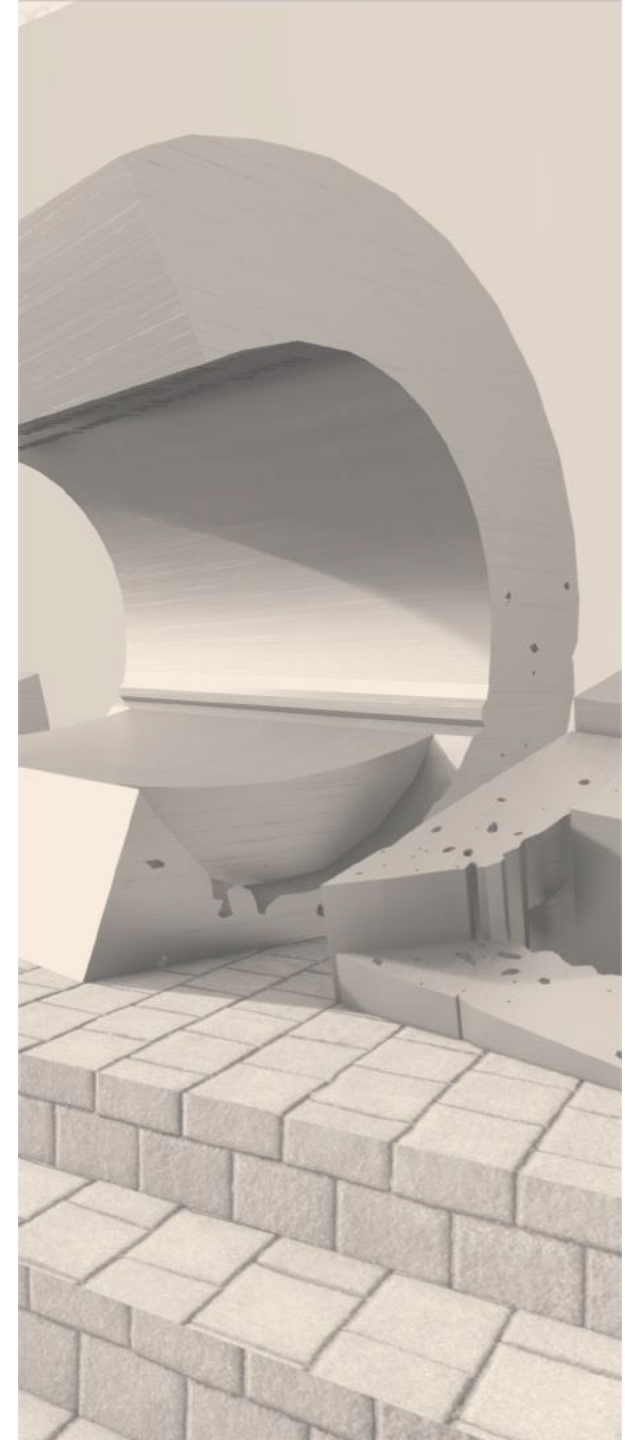
Public Artwork Proposal: Usha Seejarim
August 2023



Considerations

In the conceptualisation and design of the artwork, the following have been considered:

- As an outdoor artwork, that the materials and finish are robust and conducive for the outdoors.
- Within the district and culture of Ostertor, the artwork is visible and accessible for passers-by, pedestrians and visitors.
- That the work is conceptually accessible to a wide range of audience.
- The artwork serves as a memorial and brings awareness to the case of *Laye Alama Condé* and the many black men who were subjected to the forced administration of emetics while in care of the state.
- As a site that addresses anti-black racism, the memorial is designed to be thought provoking, self-reflexive and encourage conversation and dialogue.
- The message of the artwork does not shy away from speaking to the brutality and reality of racism, human rights violations, power and control, while maintaining a deep sense of respect for the victims of emetic torture including Laye-Alama Condé.



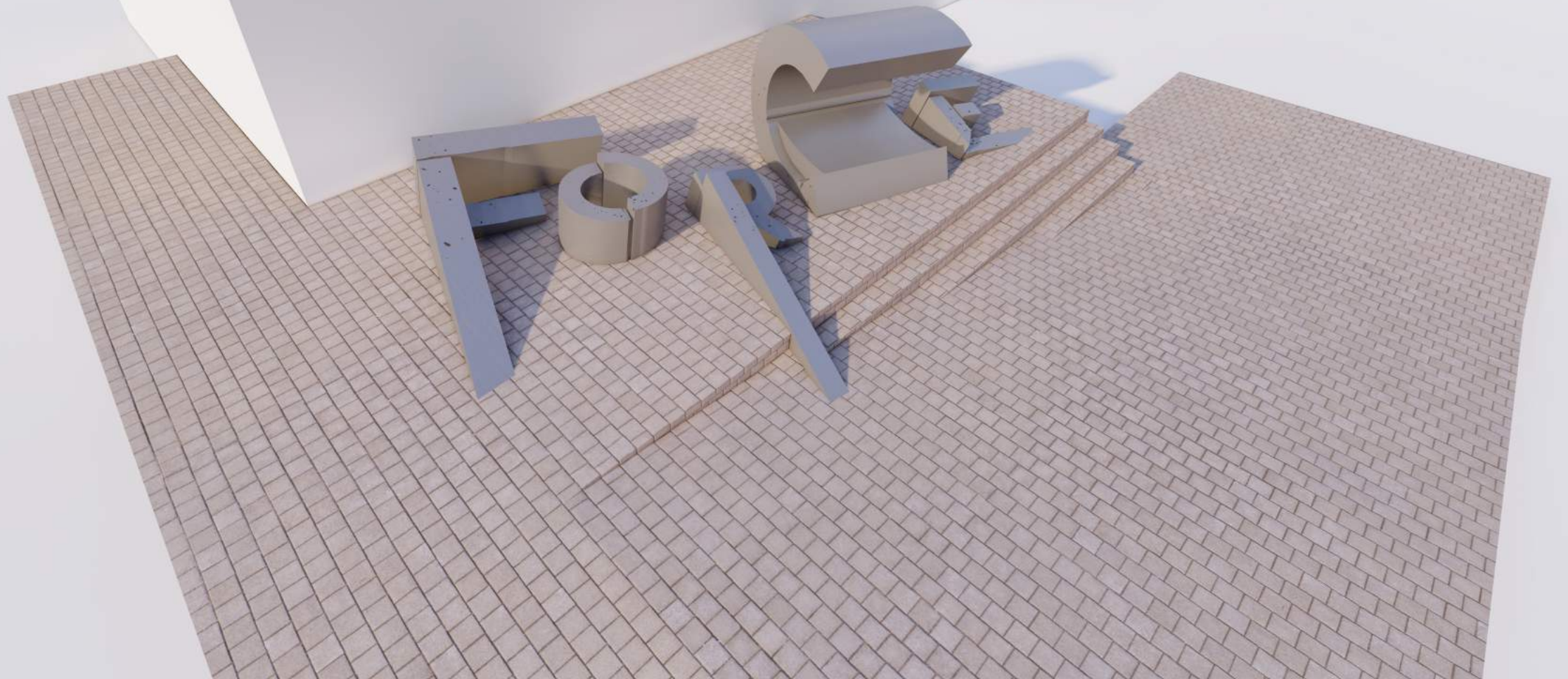
Concept and Description

The concept of the memorial artwork is based on the word “force”. It relates to the forced administration of the emetic torture procedure, and the associated forced response of the body through vomiting. Force further relates to a sense of power and exertion, coercion and compulsion. I have purposefully used the English version of the word as opposed to the German “Gewalt” because of the many references of the English word. For example, the force also refers to the police force. This reading is crucial as it speaks to current discourses around police brutality and anti-black racism.



The letters of the word are designed to create sculptural forms that are engaging. Thus, one can sit on the pieces. This is intentional to encourage an opportunity to ponder about the work and to dialogue. The seating however is not meant to be entirely comfortable. The letters slant, picking up on the occurrence of the existing slanting floor surface, but more consciously it is a strong reminder of the manner in which Laye-Alama Condé was killed. The individual pieces appear as if to be sinking or drowning. This ties in with the title of the artwork; *Death by Drowning*. The metallic surface is also not meant to be comfortable, as I want it to be cold in winter and hot in summer. The cold metal is a purposeful reference to the hospital-like bed that was used to administer the emetic.

Only when one is seated inside the “C” of the word *Force*, does a text become visible. This is a direct quotation taken from one of the interviews held with a victim of German police violence and emetic torture. The words “Black people have feelings...just like Germans” is meant to provoke a sense of humanness and humaneness. It is a departure point towards further conversation and self-reflection.



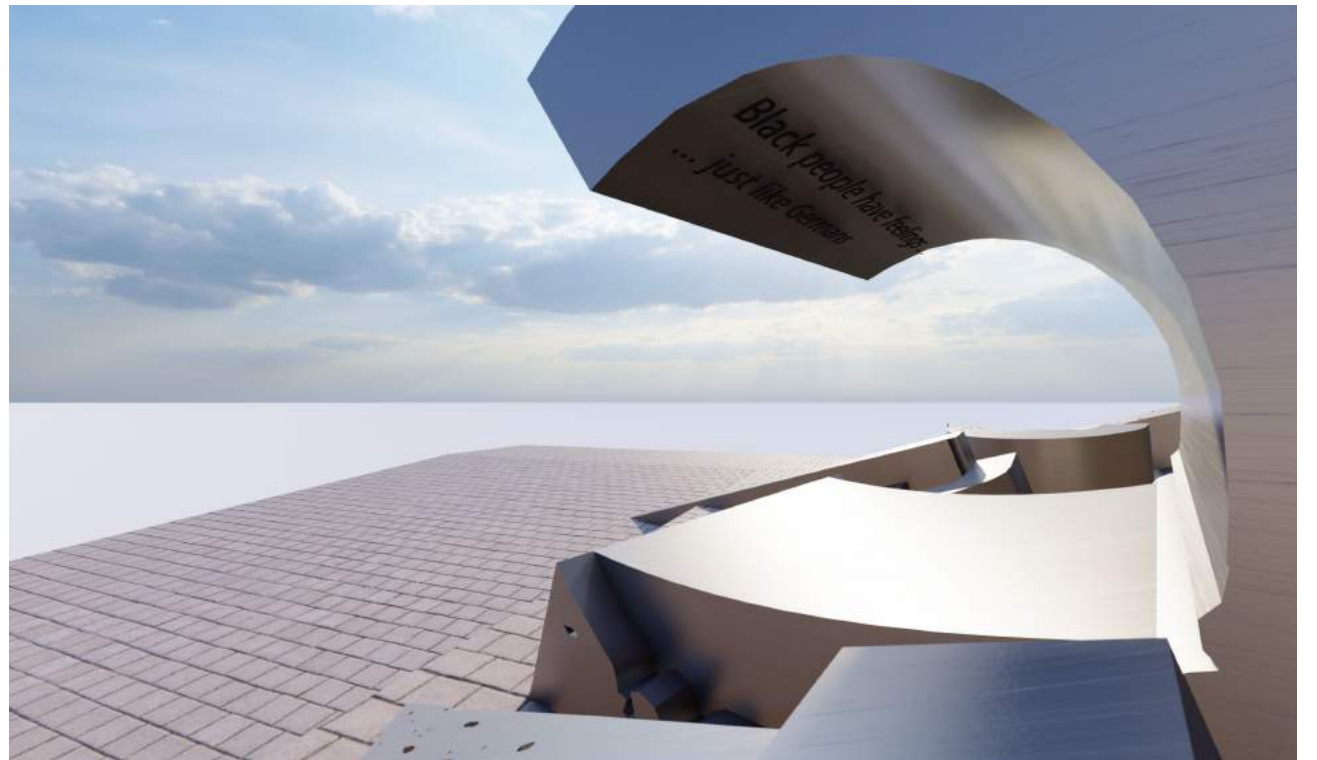
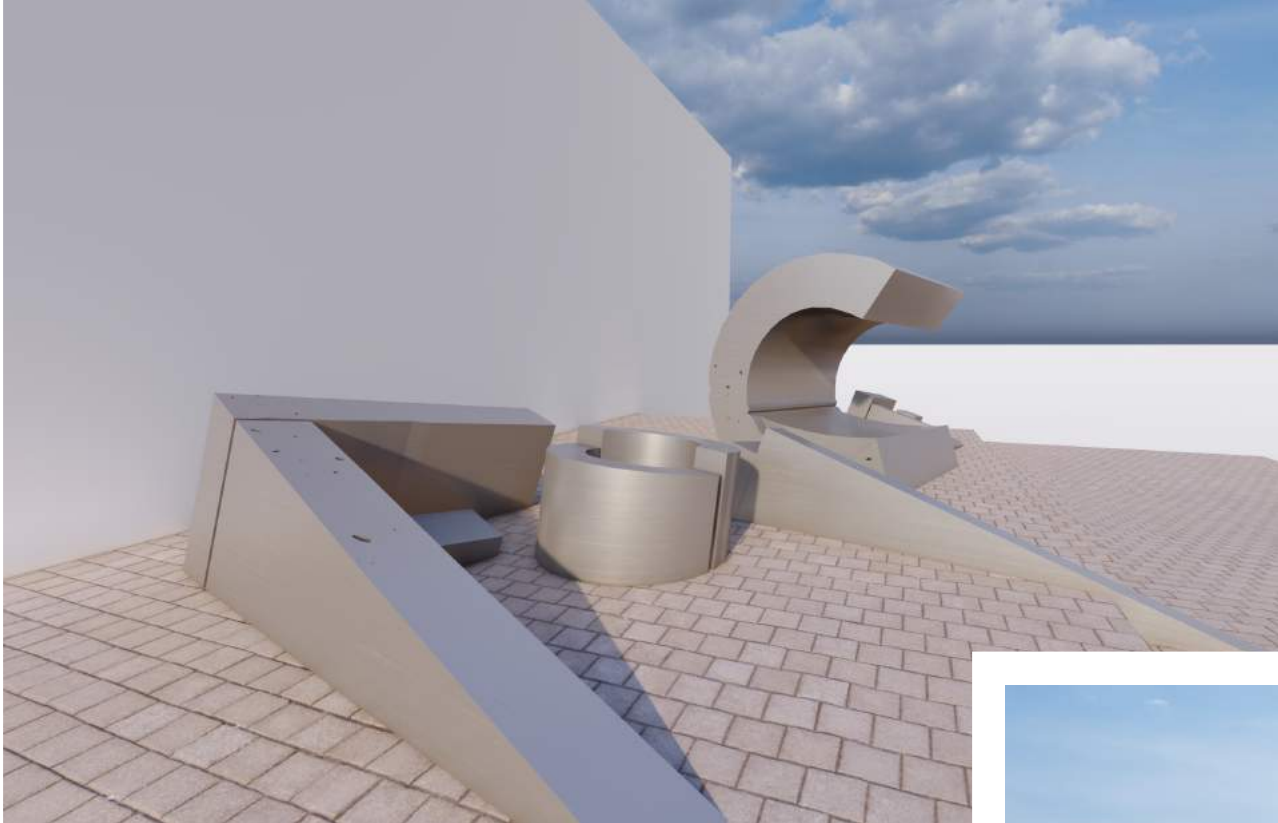


"The best weapon is to sit down and talk". Nelson Mandela



Artwork in Context



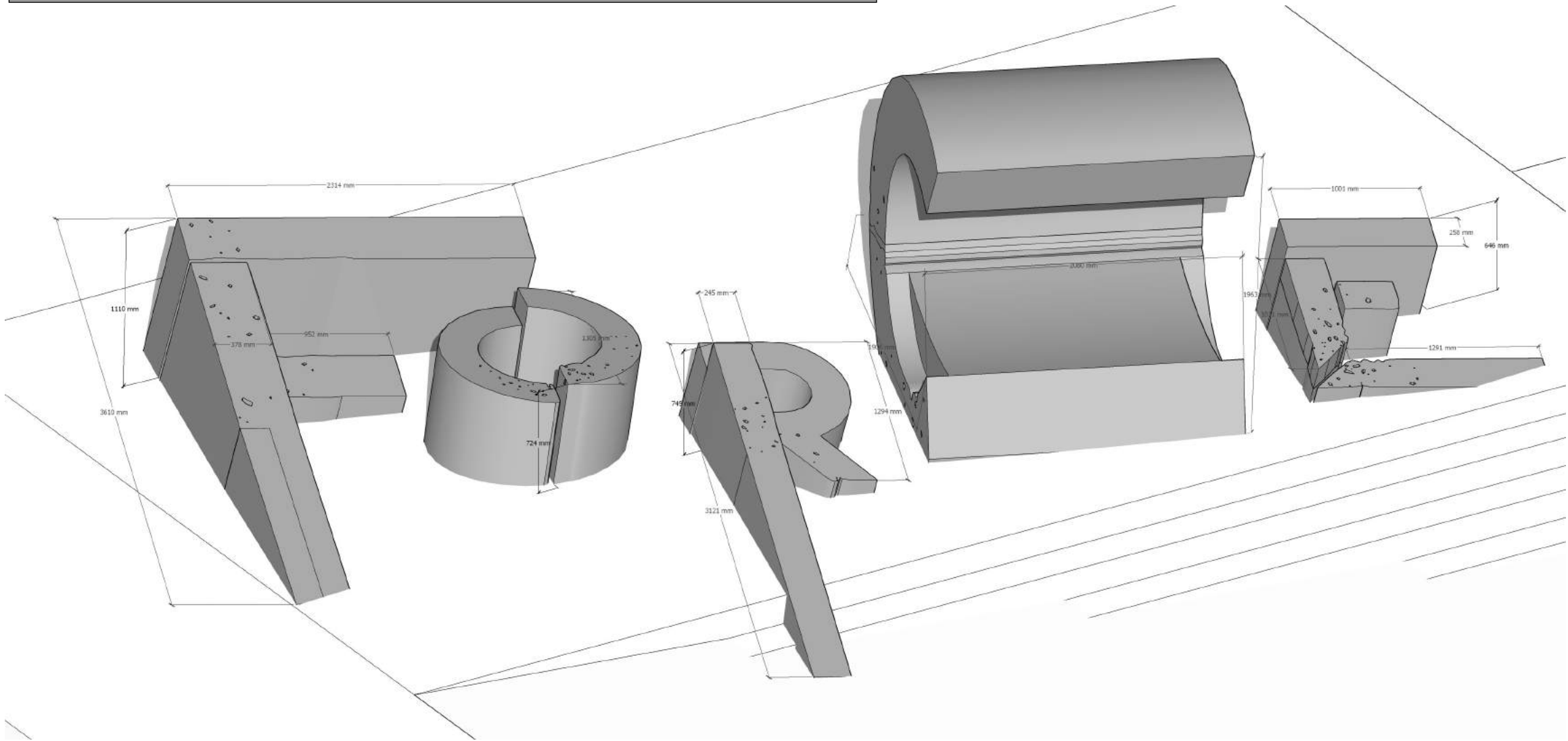


Different Views



Link to video: [3D Video Render](#)

Technical Specifications



Technical Specifications / Fabrication Details

Specific fabrication processes will be discussed and assessed with the appointed engineers and fabricators to make decisions based on viability of cost, time and aesthetic. Options include:

- A stainless steel finish that is constructed from flat sheeting, tig welded, hollow with hidden mounting plates that are anchored into ground through the paved surface. This option would use a 304 grade stainless steel with a 180 grit.
- A mild steel finish (substantially cheaper to cost) with the above construction and fixing structure. Surface to be powder coated in Silver Vein or Antique Silver.
- A treated wooden inner structure with either a stainless or mild steel cladding.
- Explanatory text can be placed on the adjacent wall in English and German.

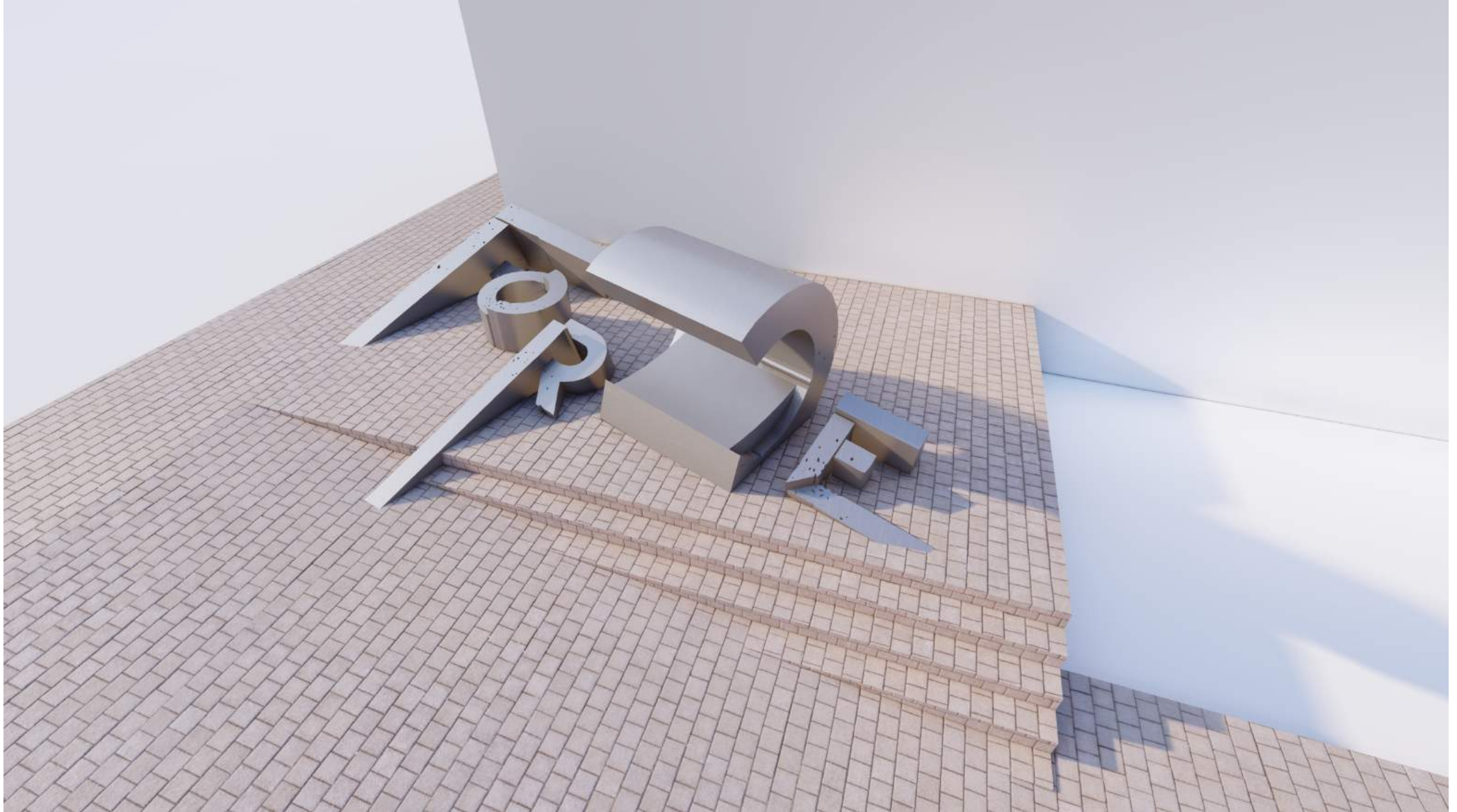
Maintenance on either option are minimal.

*Black people have feelings
... just like Germans*



ESTIMATED COSTS

ITEM	DETAILS	AMOUNT	QTY	AMOUNT (Euro)
Professional Fees				
Artist Fee	Concept, Design, Research (15% of total)	60 000,00 €	15%	9 000,00 €
Engineer Fee	Structural engineering	2 000,00 €	1	2 000,00 €
Fabrication				
Production	Materials and Labour	25 000,00 €	1	25 000,00 €
Transport	Packaging of artwork and transport to site in Bremen	650,00 €	1	650,00 €
Installation	On-site installation @€400 per day	400,00 €	4	1 600,00 €
Artist Travel				
Flight	Return flight Johanneburg to Bremen (2 trips)	1 500,00 €	2	3 000,00 €
Accommodation	€1400/n x 12 (divided over 2 trips)	1 400,00 €	12	16 800,00 €
Visa	3 month travel Visa	80,00 €	1	80,00 €
Stipend	12 days @	45,00 €	12	540,00 €
TOTAL				58 670,00 €



Selected References



Ivan Puig



Peace Bench at the UN HQ



Stéphane Thidet, *Crue*



Cynthis Sah

SARAH PSCHORN Records of Gravity bis 7. Mai

gerhard
marcks
haus

