FRAGMENTS
Meeting Architecture III
A programme of lectures and exhibitions

Monday 17 October 2016: Part VII
Miroslaw Balka with Joseph Rykwert
Memory and Responsibility
A conversation chaired by Pippo Ciorra

Monday 17 October 2016 18.30—19.30
The British School at Rome
via Gramsci 61, Roma

Memory and Responsibility closes Miroslaw Balka’s exhibition at the BSR and is the seventh event in Meeting Architecture: FRAGMENTS curated by Marina Engel.

I make my place in space when I smell, touch, see it around me. That experience of location through the senses makes my sense of place, but inevitably summons memories. So there can be no place without memory evoked and experienced through the senses – sometimes pleasurable but as often painful. It reaches back to my own past, but the past also of my forebears, my friends and enemies making a tissue which clings to things, to fragments which memory reconstructs and through which it lives anew. It is the condition which assures my place in the world, my place among the fragments which constitute it as my place. [Joseph Rykwert]

1 ‘History is no theatre playing before our eyes, but a responsible acknowledgment of the relationships which make man; history is not a spectacle, it is a responsibility’ Jan Patočka, quoted by Krzysztof Michalski Zrozumieć przemijanie 2011
Otwock, near Warsaw, from which Rykwert fled upon the German invasion of Poland in 1939 and where Balka grew up under Communism in the 1960’s, is the starting point of the discussion between the artist and architectural historian. Otwock was a well known health resort before World War II and was inhabited by a large Jewish population. It was also the home of Rykwert’s family holiday house. By the end of the Nazi occupation, not a single Jewish family remained. Twelve to fifteen thousand Jews were dispatched to the Treblinka death camp. Balka and Rykwert will then focus on Balka’s show *Emplacement* at the BSR and discuss the responsibility of modernism in World War II in the wider context of architecture and ideology.

**BIOGRAPHY**


**Joseph Rykwert** is Paul Philippe Cret Professor Emeritus of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. He was born in Warsaw in 1926 and emigrated to England in 1939. He became Librarian and Tutor at the Royal College of Art, London in 1962. In 1967 he was made Professor of Art at the newly-created University of Essex where he remained until 1981 when he was first Slade Professor in the Fine Arts at the University of Cambridge and then Reader in Architecture. He took up his appointment in Philadelphia in 1988.

Rykwert has lectured or taught at most major schools of architecture and has held visiting appointments in Princeton, the Cooper Union, New York, Harvard Graduate School of Design, the University of Sydney, Louvain, the Institut d’Urbanisme, Paris, the Central European University and

In 1984 he was appointed Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and a Commander of the British Empire Order in 2014. He holds several honorary degrees and is a member of the Accademia di San Luca, the Polish Academy and the Academia Europea.

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