



Princeton Battle Monument



Robert Gould Shaw and 54th Regiment Memorial

Photo Credits: Christopher Rhodes, Charles Henebry, Adam Sweeting, Thomas Underwood, Lecture, April 9, 2021, Boston University.

BEAUTY IN THE DETAILS

The term “beautiful” is often used to characterize an individual, to depict striking aspects in a painting or sculpture, or to show appreciation for the alluring view of a garden or city landscape. In the above photographs, are two different structures, both built with the architectural purpose of commemorating heroes of our country. Despite the astonishing details and complexity in each structure, the aspect that brings it to life is the setting surrounding it. Paving the path towards the Princeton Battle Monument is a line of trees that runs along each side. In the spring, when white blossoms bloom, tourists are given an enchanting experience as if they were walking through a fairytale movie. The choice of location is an artistic approach implemented by the architect as blossoms signify a time of renewal, the perfect message to convey leading up to the monument as people remember the sacrifices made before them so they could live in such a serene environment. Conversely, the Robert Gould Shaw and 54th Regiment Memorial stands on its own without the added embellishments that are used to present the Battle Monument. Nonetheless, its independence from decorations makes the memorial the focal point for pedestrians who walk by. Additionally, the skyscraper in the background promotes a city vibe which portrays a loud, crowded, and busy environment, completely contradicting the graceful elegance of suburban life in which the Battle Monument is located. The distinct locations offer a different outlook and perception of beauty towards each structure. Art is an all-encompassing concept and the beauty in art is not just in the details that make up the piece, but it includes the details of what surrounds it.