

Marko Špikić

## Didactic Images of Pain: Use and Abuse of Ruins in Europe after 1945

Along with traditional aesthetical responses, this article discusses the ethical side of the perception of ruins. It is viewed from historical and theoretical perspectives. One recalls ancient, mediaeval and renaissance interpretations of ruins as symptoms of collective traumas, from ancient Athens and Cicero's Corinth to the renaissance humanists' and antiquarians' Rome. Following the history of perception of ruins and fragments, the author studies the specific genealogy of morals in the perception and treatment of inherited and newly created ruins. The sources are found in the texts of artists, art historians, moral philosophers and conservators from Winckelmann's times to protagonists of modern conservation movement.