

Bogdan Bogdanović (1922 to 2010) was the creator of the legendary 'concrete flower' in Jasenovac and of the Piranesi Award winning Memorial Park in Vukovar, partially destroyed in the Yugoslavian civil war. His monuments, memorial sites and necropolises in all parts of former Yugoslavia symbolise the cultural diversity and the tragic course of the history of the Balkans. They share their creator's stance and are 'inclusive rather than exclusive, cohesive rather than divisive'.

Friedrich Achleitner writes the above in this book of words and images about the architect, urbanist, writer, polymath, former mayor of Belgrade and the author's friend while in exile in Vienna. First in his company, later alone, Achleitner visited all of the memorial sites by Bogdan Bogdanović a number of times, and found the 'life-affirming memorials' to be 'among the most impressive artistically conceived commemorative sites inscribed into the European cultural landscape' and 'clearly recognisable one-offs in the entire history of the culture of memorials in twentieth century Europe'.

*Friedrich Achleitner*, born in 1930 in Schalchen, Upper Austria, member of the Wiener Gruppe. Until 1998, professor at the college of Applied Art in Vienna. Books include: *Österreichische Architektur* (from 1980) and, recently published by Zsolnay, *der springende punkt* (2009) and the vernacular poems *iwahaubbd* (2011).