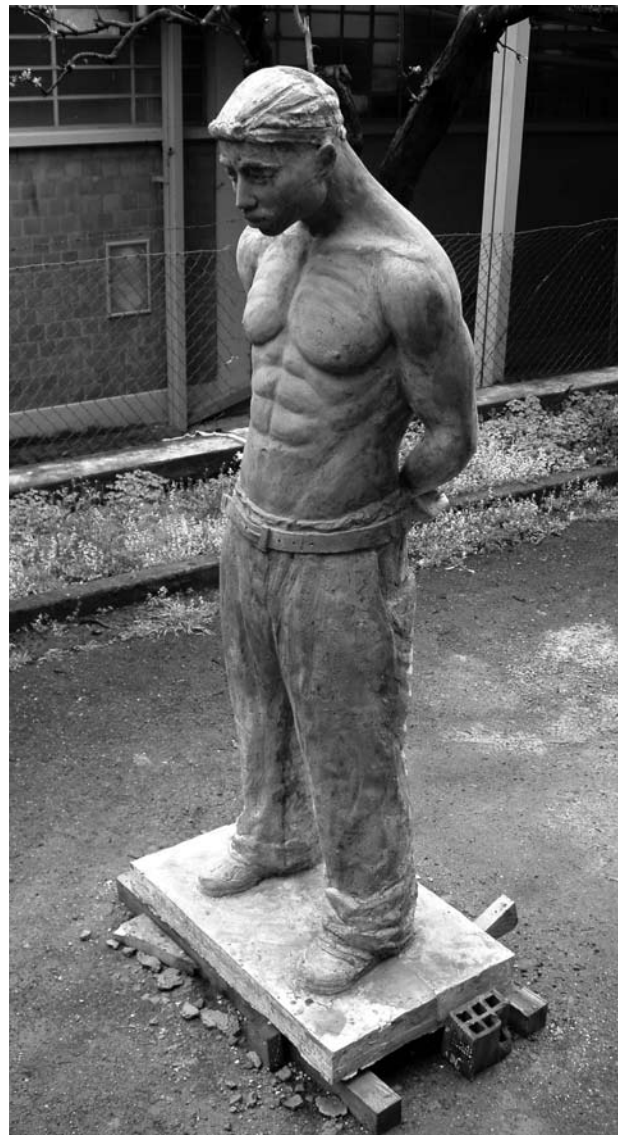

Paolo Chiasera / Tupacproject

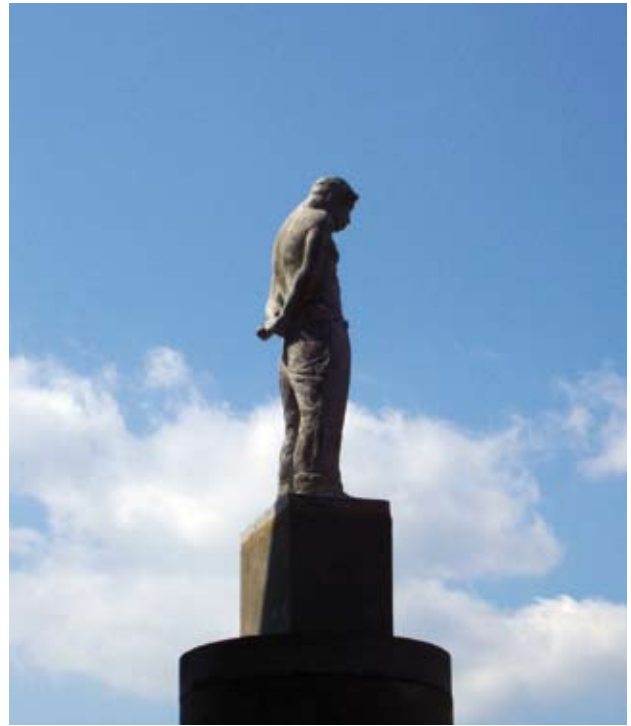
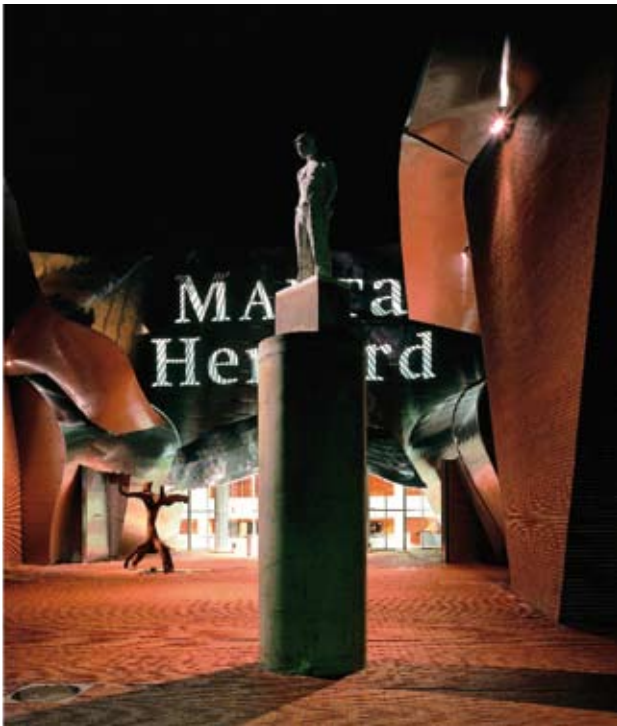
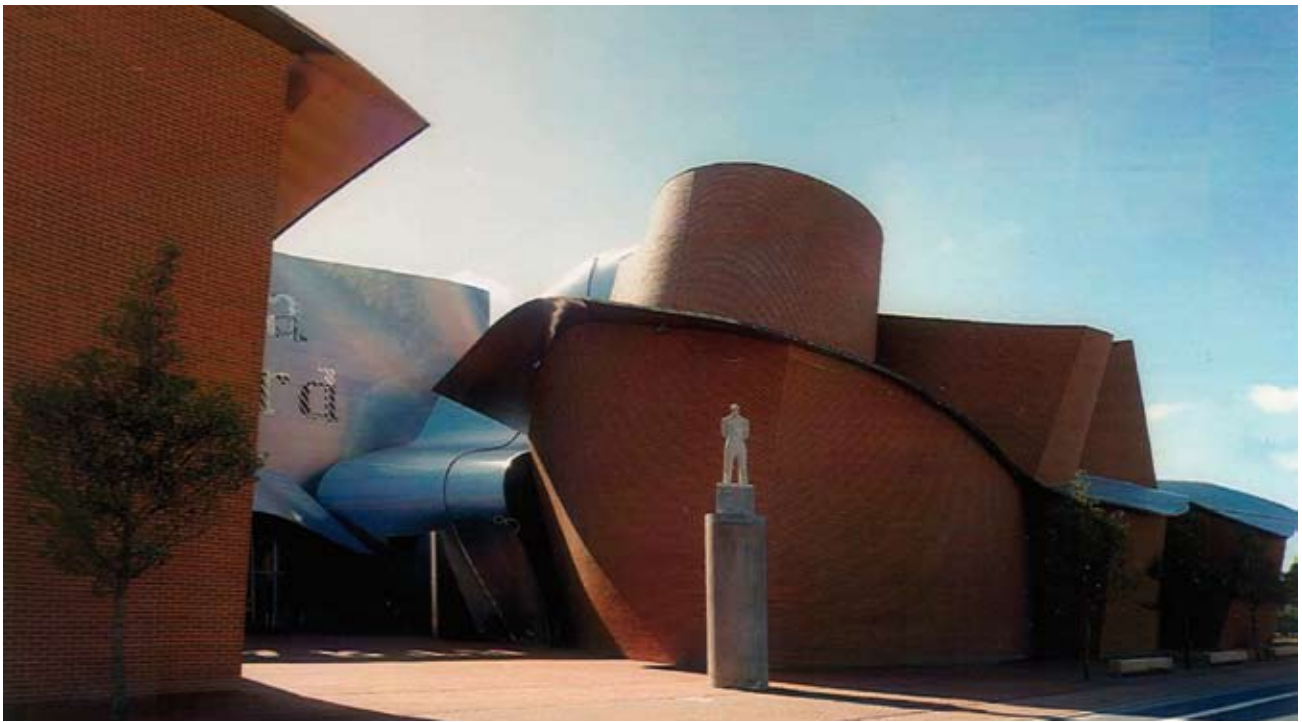
The "Tupac Monument"

Tupac Shakur is known as one of the most impressive figures of Gangsta Rap. The hip-hop artist was born in Brooklyn in 1971, his parents belonged both to the Black Panther movement and his father was killed in a firing against the police in 1973. Tupac's furious career began in the early nineties and according to legend he spent his existence between stage, recording studio and jail, where he was imprisoned because of several small crimes. In 1996 he was shot dead by a stranger in Las Vegas, probably a member of an antagonistic gang.

Paolo Chiasera dedicates with his „Tupac monument“ an impressive but fugacious memorial to this hero who is still being worshipped by the - not only black - Youth Culture. First he put his "Tupac-Project" online (www.tupacproject.it) to open a discussion inside the hip-hop community and other interested groups. Then he built his life-sized monument and put it on a 5 meter basement, both in concrete. The young artist placed this monochrome white statue in front of the Herford Museum; not only he creates a crossover of art and hip-hop, but he also plays on purpose with the tradition of artistic monument, which has recently gone quite out of fashion. With his work Paolo Chiasera does not refuse the idea that these monuments may be “decorated” with graffiti, as it often happens at night – the white colour and the high basement look quite inviting -, also because graffiti spraying plays an important part in the hip-hop culture together with music and breakdance. The monument becomes furtively a communication platform like the web-site.

After the exhibition in Herford, the Tupac Monument will lose its monumentality forever: Paolo Chiasera will insert it in a concrete wall in Bologna that delimitates the meeting-point of hip-hop kids in the city.





[Tupacproject](#) / 2005, cement,
h. 7 mt, permanent monument
in front of MARTa Herford,
Herford - Germany



Tupacproject / 2005, cement,
h. 185 cm, Unauthorized collocation
in Bologna



Tupacproject / 2005, cement,
h. 185 cm, installation view c
/ o Raines Foundation Scho-
ol, London
