



View of the Avenue of Heroes. Edited (CCDP "Constantin Brâncuși" Târgu Jiu)

Brâncuși Monumental
Ensemble of Târgu Jiu

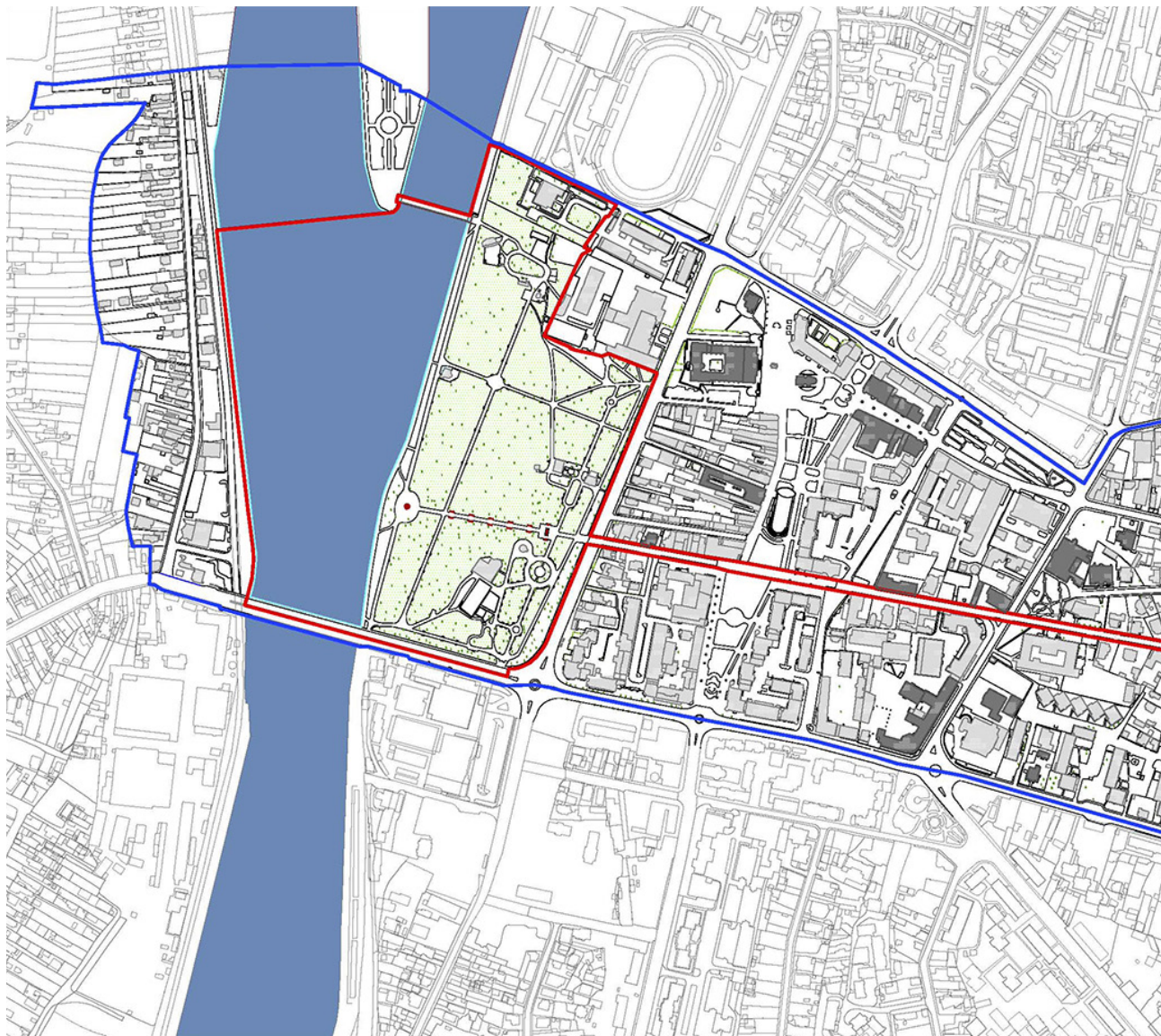
Nomination for inscription
on the World Heritage List

State Party
Romania

State, Province or Region
Gorj County

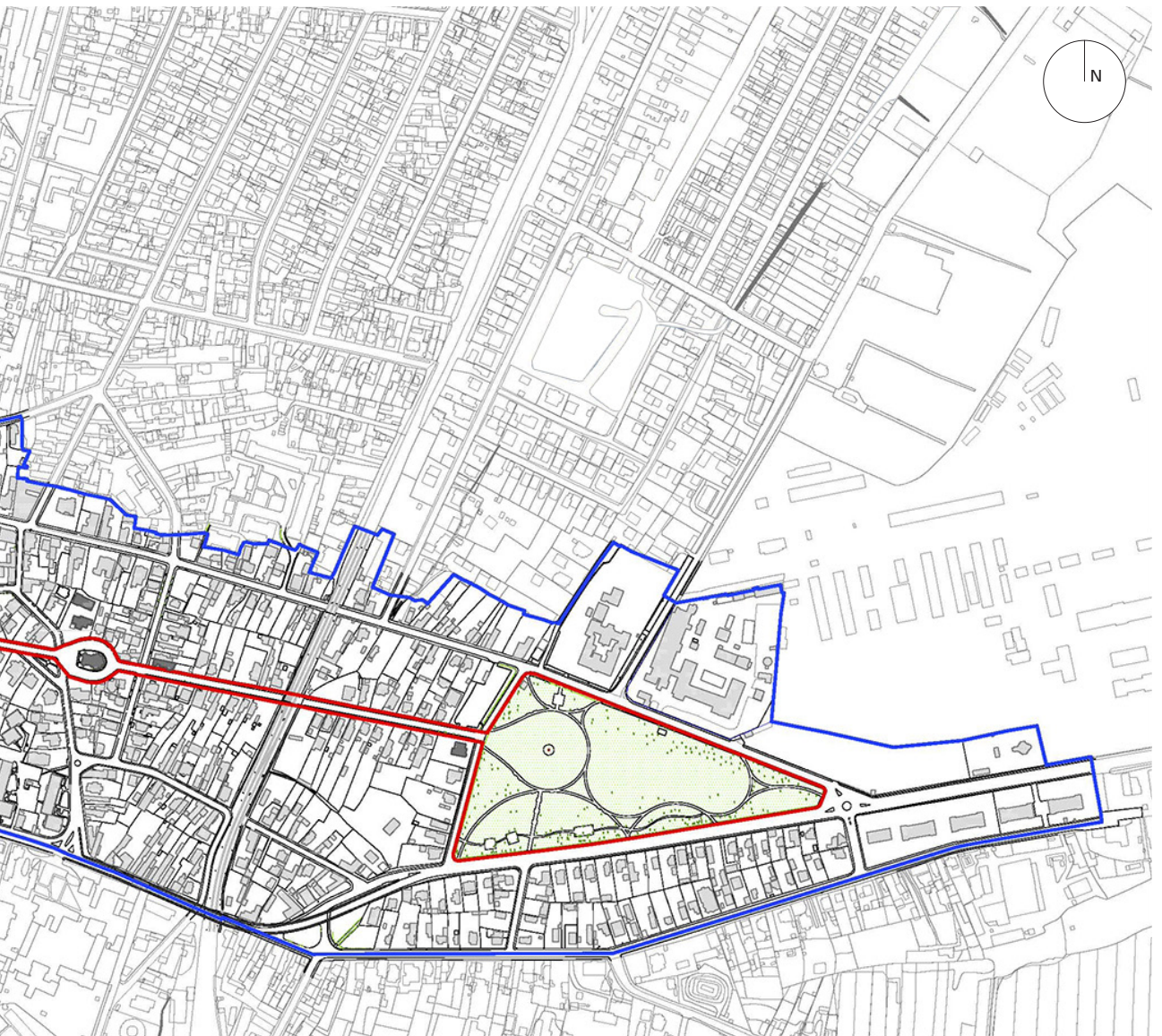
Name of Property
Brâncuși Monumental
Ensemble of Târgu Jiu

Geographical coordinates
45° 02' 18" N
23° 16' 43" E



Site Plan
Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble
of Târgu Jiu

- Nonimaged property, 26,58 ha
- Proposed buffer zone, 78,05 ha



Geographical coordinates 45° 02' 18" N
23° 16' 43" E

Scale 0 100 200 300 m

The boundary encloses, as one component part, the entire designed commemorative landscape that is aligned in a 1,500m-long axis called the Avenue of Heroes, punctuated by the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and with parks at both ends containing monumental sculptures: in the west a segment of the River Jiu and the new bridge, the riverside Constantin Brâncuși Park containing the sculptural elements of The Table of Silence, The Gate of the Kiss and the Benches, and The Alley of Chairs, and in the east the Park of the Column that contains the Endless Column.

The western boundary of the property overlaps the right bank of River Jiu, from the southern point of Jiului Islet / Insulița Jiului to the southern side of the new bridge over the river, and from the southern alignment of Unirii Street up to Constantin Brâncuși Boulevard.

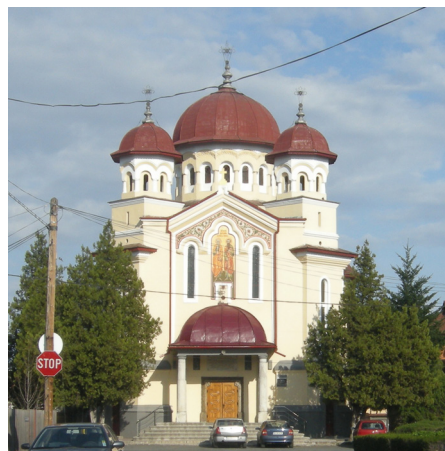
To the east, the boundary continues on the western alignment of Constantin Brâncuși Boulevard up to Avenue of Heroes, on its southern alignment, up to the Park of the Column, then continues on the perimeter of the Park, the north side of the Avenue of Heroes up to Constantin Brâncuși Boulevard. The boundary then follows the western alignment of the boulevard up to plot no. 10 and continues on the boundary of Constantin Brâncuși Park up to the extension of Traian Street and on this street down to the River Jiu. The boundary then follows the left bank of the river, including the metal bridge – a historical monument – up to the southern boundary of Jiului Islet.

Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu is a creative masterpiece of modernism located in the city of Târgu Jiu on the banks of the River Jiu in Romania's southern sub-Carpathians. The monumental complex, erected between the years 1937 and 1938, represents a turning point in the history of modern art, in particular of modern monumental sculpture and public art.

It is the seminal creation and the sole large-scale public work, of Romanian sculptor Constantin Brâncuși who, instead of placing the monument in the city, 'placed the city as a functional element in the centre of the monument'. It is dedicated to the supreme sacrifice of Romanian soldiers, police and ordinary citizens who died defending the city of Târgu Jiu during World War I. The designed commemorative landscape is aligned in a 1,500m-long conceptual axis which in the most part is tangibly represented by the Avenue of Heroes punctuated in its median sector by the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. The ensemble comprises the Table of Silence, the Gate of the Kiss and the Benches, and the cubed hourglass seats of the Alley of Chairs – all located in the Constantin Brâncuși Park – and the Endless Column in the Park of the Column.

The Ensemble demonstrates a perfect fusion between the disciplines of sculpture, architecture, engineering and environmental and urban planning; a fundamental balance that has guided subsequent great works by artists, architects and engineers.

Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul
(INP Archive)





The Endless Column
(© INP, József Kovács)





Test fitting of the Endless Column in the Petroșani Central Workshops.
1937 (INP Archive)

Criteria under which the property is nominated

Criteria (i), (ii), (iv), (vi)

↳ Justification for Criteria

↳ Criterion (i), represent a masterpiece of human creative genius

Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu is a creative masterpiece of modernism; and simultaneously a work illustrative of the creative genius of humanity. A quintessentially modernist aesthetic language is demonstrated in the ensemble's form, materials and technical innovation, carefully located in a designed urban open space. The work represents the transformation of the tradition of the figurative memorial into an abstract modern monument. In so doing, it resolves the modernist ideals and belief in progress while commemorating an historic event.

As a whole, it elicits personal interpretations and meaning and offers a highly symbolic sequential commemorative experience that completes a work of great originality. It includes the Endless Column, a 30-metre-high modular sculpture of ascending bronze-coated cast iron rhomboids fixed to a steel spine. This revolutionary modern monument, where the form of the endless plinth has become the sculptural object, represents a triumph of art and engineering – a perfect architecturally aerodynamic conception and an optimum synthesis between form and subject. It is hailed as one of the great works of 20th century sculpture.

↳ Criterion (ii), exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design.

Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu represents a turning point in the evolution of the 20th century history of modern monumental art and commemorative architecture. Further, it includes a pioneering and influential construction technology that is embodied in, and acknowledged by, some of the world's tallest skyscrapers. Its artistic and architectural design reveals elemental influences of Cycladic, African and Romanian cultures together with spatial-compositional relationships that reference great European monumental works. In turn, the simple and human scale of The Gate of the Kiss revolutionised the design tradition of triumphal arches, whilst

the soaring verticality and architecturally aerodynamic stability of the Endless Column has expressly inspired outstanding examples of modern art and architecture.

↳ Criterion (iv), be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history

Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu is an outstanding monumental sculptural ensemble and designed commemorative urban open space that illustrates the revolutionary age of modernism, a major design influence in the 20th century most often associated with architecture. The ensemble landscape is a powerful, very early and rare example of modernism applied to monumental sculpture, in particular to war memorials.

↳ Criterion (vi), be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance

Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu is a monumental artistic work of outstanding universal significance that is associated with the widespread commemorations following World War I.

World War I was a near global event of major significance in world history, its massive human sacrifice leading to extensive commemorative activities. The ensemble landscape is an outstanding artistic response to this event, demonstrating exceptional creativity far beyond most commemorative memorials; worldwide, and for the entire 20th century. In addition, the ensemble landscape is a highly significant monumental artistic work as a creative masterpiece of modernism.



The Old Bridge in a period postcard



Photographs taken during the assembling of the Column
(INP Archive)



The Table of Silence
Photograph by Constantin Brâncuși, 1938

Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu fulfils the condition of integrity since all of the elements necessary to convey the totality of the property's values are included; each element is preserved in its entirety, in their original locations, and all are included as part of the property.

The physical fabric of the property, and all its significant features, are in good condition, and the impact of any potential deterioration processes is under control. The integrity of the conceptual axis of the ensemble, manifest by a physical axis designed to evoke the act of remembrance, is preserved through the entirety of designed commemorative urban open space. The property has suffered from some adverse development and neglect. This principally concerned, in physical terms of the elements, the Endless Column. In the context of communist hostility to modernism during the early 1950s, the structure suffered a short attempt (by horse or tractor) to pull it down. Restoration and conservation that began in 1965–66, after several conservation phases, culminated in 2000 under the auspices of the World Monuments Fund.

Whilst some spaces retain high visual integrity – such as the Endless Column viewed against the 'void' of the sky, or the sculptures in the Constantin Brâncuși Park – the Avenue of Heroes is perceived to have suffered in terms of visual aesthetics from aspects of adverse urban development. Consideration, however, must be given to the artist's decision to integrate the city into his work of art, with absolutely no intention to inhibit dynamic urbanism that is simply evolving context to his creation; he did not want to freeze, or "conserve" such buildings. That is why the nominated property includes the physical avenue – and the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul that Brâncuși chose to integrate into the Ensemble – but excludes all adjacent property. Further, communist-era development which, although perhaps being considered to be inappropriate today, is still part of the urban history of the Ensemble. In this respect, to a certain extent, some undesirable characteristics are reversible (and will be dealt with in the forthcoming update of the Management Plan), whilst in other cases (such as inappropriate car parking) there are mitigation measures planned and due to be implemented in 2018–19.

Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu affirms a revolutionary modality of designing sculpture. For Brâncuși, sculpture is the language of content rather than the language of forms, and the Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu, erected between the years 1937 and 1938, is the synthesis of his entire oeuvre.

All elements of the Ensemble remain in their original location, and have preserved in their entirety (and in conservation measures applied) the original attributes of form and design, materials and functionality that respect the original techniques of implementation and installation and which in their unity meet the condition of authenticity as defined in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, together with the Nara Document on Authenticity (UNESCO, 1993). Use and function, in common with many war memorials, changes through the generations. Continuity of past practices depends on many factors; disengagement with them usually occurring as relevance to communities diminishes over time. Commemoration of the dead remains a collective, inclusive and symbolic activity, yet depends on the effective action of the organisations that promote it. This fundamental function of the Ensemble is being maintained and gained new strength with the involvement of local administration over the past years. Another important dimension of use and function of the Ensemble, firmly a part of its original concept and one often uppermost in the minds of the general visitor, is the artistic and recreational values that inevitably prevail. All today's uses of the property are sustainable and compatible with World Heritage values, with each other, and in terms of the community that cares for it.



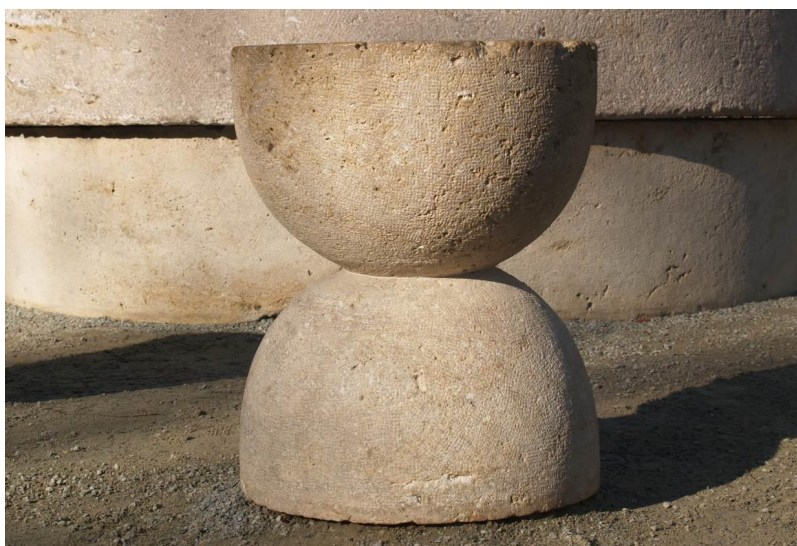
The Table of Silence
(© Camil Iamandescu)



The Gate of the Kiss
(© Camil Iamandescu)



The Gate of the Kiss, detail (© INP, Iosef Kovacs)



The Table of Silence, detail (© INP, Iosef Kovacs)



The Gate of the Kiss, detail (© INP, George Dumitriu)



One of the two Stone Benches (© INP, George Dumitriu)



The Alley of Chairs, detail (© INP, George Dumitriu)

Requirements for protection and management

Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu, together with its buffer zone, has the highest regional and national level of protection, provided by the List of Historical Monuments, annexed to the Order of the Minister of Culture no. 2828/2015 for the updating of annex 1 of the Order of the Minister of Culture and Religious Affairs no. 2314/2004 regarding the approval of the List of Historical Monuments, updated, and of the List of Lost Historical Monuments, with further updates, from 24.12.2015, published in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, no. 113 bis, 15.02.2016.

During the actions to update its zoning plans, the Municipality developed in 2013 the Zoning Plan for the Protected Area The monumental ensemble “Avenue of Heroes”, created by Constantin Brâncuși. The zoning plan together with its by-law were approved by the City Council of Târgu Jiu in 2014.

Legal protection is ensured by Law 422/2001 for the protection of historical monuments and by Law 564/2001 for the approval of the Ordinance of the Government of Romania no. 47 regarding the protection measures of historical monuments inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Protection and Management Plan of the Ensemble was developed by the Municipality of Târgu Jiu and approved by the Local Council in 2014. It is currently under revision and due to be implemented, according to specific legal provisions, if inscription on the World Heritage List is achieved. Long-term challenges for the protection and management of the property relate principally to the buffer zone and the property's setting, where new development in the immediate urban context will be controlled by values-led planning policies.

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NR. FILĂ 14

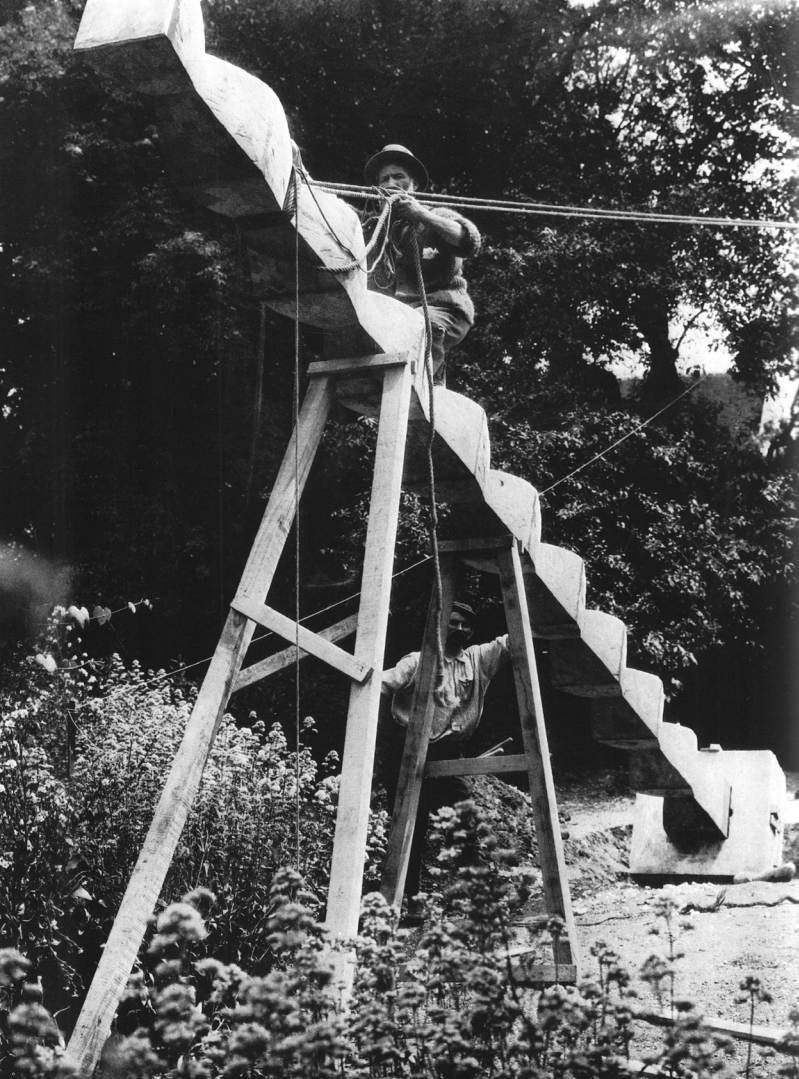


FOTO NR. 4
SE LASA IN JOS CEL DE AL DOILSA ELEMENT (BRANCUSI CU
SPATELE)

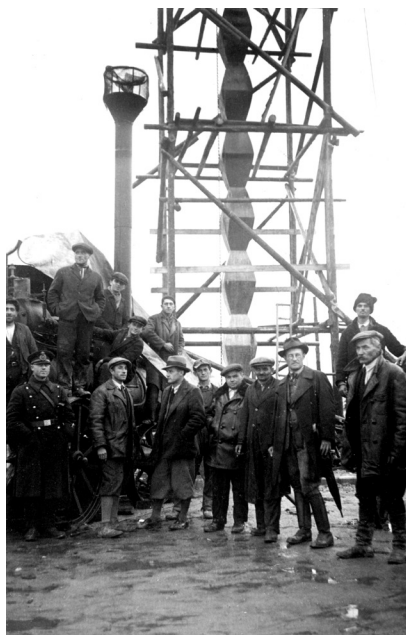
Brâncuși working on an Endless Column in his studio in Paris
France, 1924–1925



Brâncuși erecting an Endless Column à Voulangis
France, 1926



Photographs taken during the assembling of the Column
(INP Archive)



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official institution/agency



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