

CONSTRUCTED EPHEMERALITY

ALEX PRIEST

Landscape Architecture / Bambi Yost / Spring 2011

Constructed Ephemerality questions the current role of lines as political boundaries and topographic projections both discovered and man-made. It is a new form of site analysis attempting to address the responsibility of art object and the contemporary world, thus pushing line aggressively into the "real" world of everyday spaces.



one point it is out of context; the next, it is in context.
The context needs the line and the line needs the context
for the space to become legible.

Lines are a way to rationalize, control and regulate chaos.
However, through the development of lines within the
environment the perfect ideal of a line, becomes
ephemeral. As my work has emerged and developed, the
necessity to construct ephemerality, as a way to better
understand the environment, context and politics of the
world is imperative. By bringing in elements that are out
of context or taking objects from within the context
and re-arranging them, an ephemeral line can show that
context in a new and contemporary way. Through a better
understanding of the context, better judgments and the
elimination of harsh prejudices, can be eliminated. I am not so
much concerned with the questions "Is this a line? Is that
a line? What is a line?" so much as the question "How can
we better understand the dense ephemeral environments
in which we reside?" The use of ephemeral lines (written,
drawn, and constructed) can lead to dialogues
regarding waste, art and ecosystems as part of a political
conversation about who we are and what we do.

The immense controlled agri-scapes of Iowa in which
we live allow for little deviation. However, through
these monoculture destructive systems the landscape
becomes legible, comprehensible, and profitable. But
organizing the landscape into easily comprehensible
forms requires questioning. Who made it look that way?
How did it look like before? What does it say about
the world and how we value the land? Contemporary society is
moving faster and faster every day, minute, and second.
Within the temporality of contemporary society that
ephemerality emerges. By generating situations that
interact with each passerby to allow for interaction in
the sense where the lines become auditable as well
as visible, physical environments, a richer understanding
of context can emerge.

Through my extensive knowledge and background in
landscape architecture, the works within Constructed
Ephemerality appropriately address site context and
create spaces more legible while provoking an evocative
conversation about contemporary society, and the complex
nature of human existence and the environment. By
blurring boundaries multiple meanings can be read into
the work allowing for the perceptions of the viewer/
passerby to become absorbed within the work. Art is
a way of seeing the world in a new and different way, and
Constructed Ephemerality provokes a questioning of the
accepted realities of the world. Better understanding
of the natural relationship linearity can and does have
with the physical, social, ecological and political world
is an aggressive exploration into a site's context in
conformance with human perceptions.



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