

## CELA MEDIA STATEMENT

### Title of Paper or Research:

RESPONDING TO EMOTIONAL ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL LOSS: IMPLICATIONS FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE THEORY AND PRACTICE

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### Media Statement:

While landscape architects have done the important work of highlighting human intervention in the landscape and making ecological processes evident in designed terrains, I explore how design practice might also respond to the emotional aspects of environmental loss and climate change. Such sites can play a role in transforming public grief into political resistance, but to do so they must move beyond pastoral forms, lament and nostalgia. As illustrated by the important role played by memorials in most societies, designed spaces can serve as important points for publicly addressing traumatic histories and memories in collective forums.

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<sup>i</sup> Hargreave's project integrates a flood-control landscape with a major recreation park and wildlife habitat, through obvious interventions like terraced banks and landforms. At Vintondale, DIRT has created a system of wetland treatment ponds that mitigate the contamination from acid mine drainage (AMD) from years of coal mining in the region. The changes occurring in the ponds, largely invisible and unapproachable due to extreme toxicity, are expressed in the Litmus Garden: trees with different color foliage that express the progressive changes to the water quality as it moves through the six treatment ponds. Duisburg-Nord, the site of a former coal and steel production plant, was transformed into a park. Latz utilized phytoremediation and soil sequestration strategies to address contamination, and transformed industrial elements into a piazza, rock climbing walls, and gardens.

<sup>ii</sup> See for example: <http://www.landscapearchitecture.org.uk/theory-of-landscape-architecture/biodiversity-the-sixth-extinction-and-the-fourth-nature/>

<sup>iii</sup> As Svetlana Boym has pointed out, nostalgia is not opposed to modernity, but rather "it is coeval with modernity itself." (Boym, 2001 p.xvi).

<sup>iv</sup> See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jCGiSDfIAM> for more information.

<sup>v</sup> <http://www.memoproject.org/> contains a detailed description of the project.

<sup>vi</sup> For further discussion of "empathic engagement" see Bennett, 2005 & Bakshi, 2017.