

## EPHEMERAL LANDSCAPES: MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE

**TRAUTVETTER, SARAH**

Morgan State University, Sarah.trautvetter@morgan.edu

### 1 **ABSTRACT**

*Under normal circumstances, observation of our surroundings is often lost in the hustle and bustle of work and play, commuting and getting to the gym. Spring of 2020 was far from normal, however; suddenly time slowed, with one day blending into the next, and many of us found ourselves with more time to look around and notice the ephemeral of the surrounding landscape. This heightened observation falls within the broader philosophical theory of phenomenology – the study of how different people experience or think about things in different ways. How individual people experience the world around them can be specifically dictated by artists and designers. Two artists, Christo (with Jeanne-Claude) and Richard Long, and one landscape architect, Georges Descombes, use wrapping, walking and recovering, respectively, to highlight a site's systems and reveal the its ephemeral nature; thereby contributing to phenomenology at a more specific level. Through detailed project analysis and exploration of relevant landscape theory, this paper will reveal the strategies and means these artists have applied to the realization of their art. These three artists help to draw attention to elements in the landscape that might otherwise go unnoticed. Wrapping an object is one technique to make the often-invisible visible. A simple walk recorded by listing sounds experienced along the way brings the invisible into sight. What we take for granted and walk by without seeing, again and again, when wrapped or organized or recovered, becomes a visual void that makes us take notice and question its meaning.*

### 1.1 **Keywords:**

Observation, ephemeral, landscape, transience, invisible