

MANIFESTO Abstract (with Key Conclusions)

Manifesto: Writings on Site-Specific Art and Performance explores how contemporary artistic practice has shifted from object-based production to context-driven, social, spatial, and temporal engagement. Through five case studies the publication demonstrates that site-specific art activates public space rather than merely occupying it. Each project mobilizes a different methodology, ranging from object-centered intervention to ecological process, collective memorialization, infrastructural programming, and embodied ritual, revealing the field as fundamentally heterogeneous.

The study identifies several overarching conclusions. First, the concept of “site” has expanded far beyond physical location. While early site-specific works were inseparable from their geographic context, contemporary initiatives operate within social relations, cultural memory, digital networks, and communal rituals. Art becomes a means of redefining place—whether by veiling monuments, initiating long-term ecological transformation, embedding cultural infrastructure, or sustaining traditions through embodied practice.

Second, time emerges as an artistic material. The examined works span a continuum from highly temporary interventions to multi-generational processes. Temporality shapes meaning: some works exist only in brief moments of intensity, while others grow, circulate, or regenerate across decades. This temporal spectrum makes site-specific practice adaptive and responsive to social and ecological change.

A third conclusion concerns artistic form. No single medium can address the complexity of contemporary public space. Instead, diverse strategies—temporary transformations, ecological processes, social infrastructures, ritualized practices—operate as complementary tools that cities and communities can deploy depending on their cultural, spatial, and symbolic needs.

Finally, the research underscores the central role of the public. Across all five case studies, the audience is not a passive spectator but a participant, user, co-producer, or bearer of meaning. Public presence continually reshapes the work, making site-specific art a relational practice defined by interaction, interpretation, and shared experience. In this sense, art in public space becomes not an object but a dynamic relationship between people, place, and time.

Overall, *Manifesto* positions site-specific art as a powerful cultural force capable of redefining public space, strengthening community, and generating new forms of collective awareness. Its value lies in its capacity to reveal latent potential within environments, catalyze social dialogue, and cultivate inclusive cultural identities.