



Shades of Green

Changes in the Paradigm of Environmental Art
Since the 1960s

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Abstract

Over the last 100 years, since the dawning of the modernist era in the 19th century, there have been major developments in the fields of art practice and theory, altering the course of art history. Changes that occurred in the late 1960s saw the emergence of a conceptual era of art, in which the emphasis and value within art altered; an art object's value was no longer inherent within that object. Rather value was applied through cultural context and what the artworks means. This is particularly evident in the growing environmental art movement.

Environmental art is an expansive movement that involves an artistic process or artwork where the artist actively engages with the environment. It is a widely diverse discipline encompassing small personal works, including earth/body art and performance, to permanent, large-scale works.

Through specific themed chapters, this thesis aims to establish some of the ways the paradigm of environmental art has evolved since its beginnings in the 1960s. This will be achieved through investigations of three dominant themes and forms of interaction, within environmental art. This thesis focuses on the areas of environmental art that clearly illustrate key concepts in the movement. It explores concepts within feminist art, linking with Ecofeminism; presents investigations into large-scale environmental projects, the most prominent examples of the movement, and lastly, examines works that interact with the idea of ephemerality and the changing role of the gallery.

Declaration

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution to Jade Wildy and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

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Date

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