



a natural state

Video 4: TOUCH THE EARTH,

Part D: EPHEMERAL ART

[Maya Angelou, Narrator] Like all living things, nature-based sculptures are ephemeral. Typically ephemeral works are erected for the days or weeks of a particular art show and then dismantled. At the South Carolina Botanical Garden, artists produce sculptures that, while not permanent, will last much longer than traditional nature-based works. Earthen Bridge, Invisible Operations, The Space In Between, and Crucible are all constructed from the red clay soil of South Carolina. These are the most durable pieces of the collection and will last several decades. Other sculptures composed of less permanent materials decay and change more rapidly

[James Barker, President of Clemson University] Buildings have some evolution...they have a way of showing their age and that time has had an impact on them. But this will be a much more accelerated transformation. So there will be parts of it that will transform into something else. So it will look like this for a while and then it will be transformed and have several different lives as it slowly returns to those natural elements that helped create it.

[Marc Barbarit, Sculptor – Nuaille, France, *passage translated from French into English*] Yes, we abandon it. But the most important thing is that it will continue to grow and change. The plants that grow are going to modify it. We're trying to present our image of it, the one that we've worked on for days, but the work exists and continues to evolve. The only thing that's permanent is change.

[Maya Angelou, Narrator] To prolong the life of more temporary pieces,

Touch the Earth is a series of videos that explore the inspirations and processes behind Clemson's Nature-based Sculpture Program. The videos are a valuable resource for understanding the art form and are available through Clemson University.

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