



a natural state

Artist: Brian Rust

Video 4: State of the Arts, B. Process

Courtesy Banner and Credits. [Woman's voice with music in the background] The history and beauty of the area would soon influence Rust's work. In particular, the red Georgia clay inspired him to create more temporary site installations. (Music plays during a display of some of Brian's installations.)

[Woman's voice] He employs a technique called "rammed earth." Clay is mixed with a small amount of cement, and then packed into molds to create architectural forms that erode with the weather.

[Brian Rust] I like the sense that I'm doing something that is going to change over time. I like the idea that the sense of erosion actually adds to it rather than taking away from it. I think that there are spiritual qualities to that we are not all here forever. That we're all on a path to somewhere else...the idea that we are all kind of just temporary.

[Woman's voice] Many of Rust's installations are functional art works. In 2006, he rebuilt a decade old earthen bridge at the Carolina Botanical Garden at Clemson University. The rammed earth had eroded as planned, but the garden still needed a bridge.

[Brian Rust] That piece, to me, was one of these cases where I was trying to build something that looked like an architectural ruin. If it looked like it was rooted in the landscape but made reference to some ancient civilization. I like that kind of mystery, I like that kind of setting up a stage. It is a very romantic idea...

(Shot of Brian spraying water onto bridge) It gets rustier and rustier looking.