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PUBLISHED:

1 DEC 2010

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Transient Art

From elaborately patterned carpets made of dust to lighting installations that convey the ephemeral appeal of nature, a rising number of artists are turning to the short-lived but time-consuming and labour-intensive pursuit of transient art.

By virtue of being temporary, these installations emphasise the fragility of existence and become more poetic and powerful by living only in the memory and in documentation. Transient or ephemeral art, often called obsessive art, can also be hard to sell, making it a subtle anti-consumerist statement, a reaction to an increasingly commercialised art world that pushes artists into quick production mode.

Jessica Witte

Jessica Witte's birdseed doilies last for the length of each exhibition where they are then scattered or eaten by birds. Using ephemeral or discarded materials and intricate fufle activity, Witte says her work "alludes to my desire to fix the transitory".



Photo: Architecture



Photo: Architecture



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