



A Manifesto for Shadow Places to re-imagine and co-produce connections for justice in an era of climate change

On behalf of the Shadow Places Network

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Introduction

Inspiration for the Shadow Places Network drawn from Australian feminist and eco-philosopher Val Plumwood and the powerful and poetic concept of shadow places (2008).

Plumwood calls for a “recognition of the multiple, complex network of places that supports our lives”. These shadow places are the underside of the capitalist fantasy, “the multiple disregarded places of economic and ecological support” (2008, 139).



Why a manifesto?

How can we think differently, in generative and restorative ways? How do we orient ourselves to shadow places whilst maintaining a light on the practices that construct these harmed places and their beings?

Need for engaged politics led us to the genre of the manifesto.

We acknowledge the manifesto genre has a complex and troubled history.

Yet, genres are inherently flexible and open to constant challenge and remaking.

While the manifesto is largely prescriptive in form, it is performatively so. It can invite conversation.





Manifesto Genre

The manifesto form is declarative, it conveys a sense of urgency, and it is a call to arms.

Recent surge in manifestos - reflects both a growing sense of urgency regarding the trouble we are in and a recognition of the need for our words to cut through, to have greater political effect, and the need to build coalitions from common ground.



Manifestos and a rising sense of urgency

Indigenous rights and decolonisation

Warriors for Aboriginal Resistance (2014)

National Freedom Movement and Sovereign Union's (2015) *Aboriginal Sovereign Manifesto of Demands*

Uluru Statement from the Heart (2017)

Also, Kathryn Yusoff's (2017) *A Minoritarian Manifesto for Reoccupying the Strata*

"...walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future" (Uluru Statement from the Heart, 2017).



Manifestos and a rising sense of urgency

Beyond Ecological Crisis

The Uncivilisation: The Dark Mountain Manifesto
(2009)

Leap Manifesto (2015)

Ocasio-Cortez (2019) *Green New Deal*

Extinction Rebellion (2018)

“bold storytelling and public interventions; local organizing around climate and social justice solutions; and silo-busting movement gatherings”
(Leap, 2015)

“declare the climate/extinction emergency; halt biodiversity loss; and push for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 (ER, 2018)

Manifestos and a rising sense of urgency

Multi-species, more-than-human, and eco-feminist ethics

Haraway (2003) The Companion Species Manifesto: Dogs, People, and Significant Otherness

Collard et al., (2015) A Manifesto for Abundant Futures

Gibson, Rose and Fincher (2015), Manifesto for Living in the Anthropocene.

‘Might it be possible to welcome the pain of “knowing” if it led to different ways of working with non-human others, recognizing a confluence of desire across the human/non-human divide and the vital rhythms that animate the world (Gibson, Rose, and Fincher, 2015)’

Manifesto for Shadow Places

Shadow places...

- **compel us to think about** what escapes our notice, what is hidden, severed, suppressed, in the margins and what lies beneath our feet and escapes our perception.
- **call for the recognition** of situated knowledges and multispecies assemblages and relationships between land, bodies, air, and water.
- **invoke our responsibilities** to pay attention to historical injustices, power and privilege, environmental destruction and their ongoing stratified socio-ecological effects.
- **call for methods and approaches** that engage with a participatory and storied sense (and senses) of place and places.
- **lead us to principles for practice** based on an ethics of care and responsibility, an orientation to engagement rather than exploration, relations of consent and accountability, a politics of listening and collaboration rather than isolation or elevation.
- **reveal the injustice** of structural forms of violence, erasure and dispossession, and thus a politics of justice - procedural, distributive and recognition.

Manifesto for Shadow Places

Shadow places are impermanent and contingent, and so this manifesto does not look to predetermine or prescribe but rather invites conversation, encounter and exchange.

We advance the following practices for encountering, co-producing and reimagining connections between places and beings in a time of severe and uneven environmental and social stress:

- ***Collaborative enquiry - transnational, cross-cultural, cross-disciplinary, and more-than-human;***
- ***Commitment to multispecies justice, openness, diversity, generosity and welcoming as a practice, as well as an ethos;***
- ***Recognition of previous efforts, energy and innovations in this space - an understanding of the prior and future scholarly, artistic and everyday communities and their labours that our work feeds from and towards.***

Collaborative artistic works

Small bursaries provided to artists to engage with the network:

- Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro
- Linda Tegg
- Clif Evers/Polluted Leisure

Works currently under preparation.

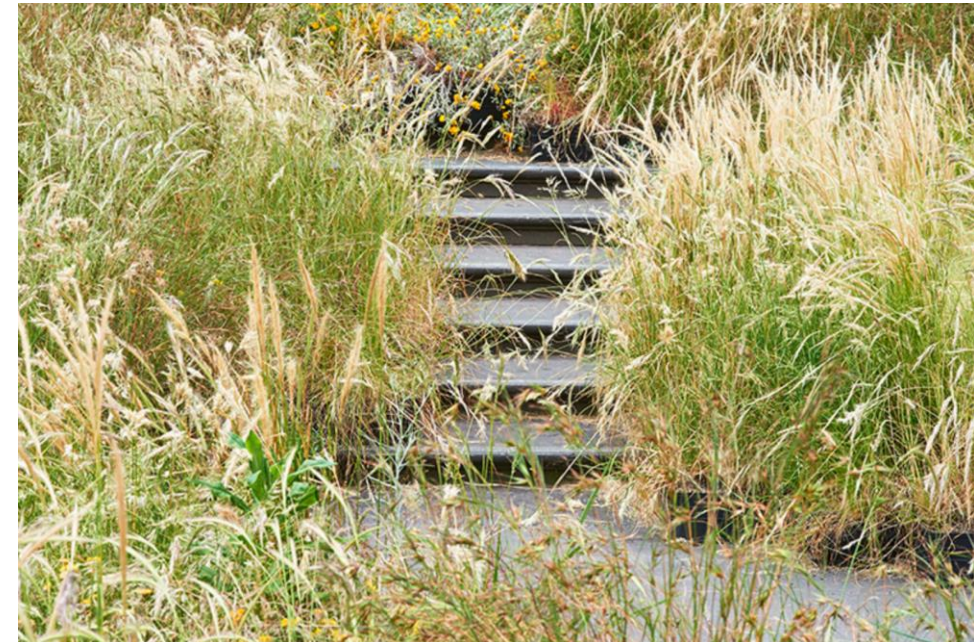


Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro, *Tapestry of Disaster BP Spill* (2013)
Photography: From artists' website www.claireandsean.com



Clif Evers and James Davoll, *Short Film: Polluted Leisure*
Photography: From artists' website
<https://pollutedleisure.wordpress.com/films/>

Note: images of earlier works,
produced prior to artists'
involvement in the network



Linda Tegg, *Grasslands* (2014) at the State Library of Victoria (in collaboration John Delpratt and Anthony Magen); Photography: Matthew Stanton from artist's website www.lindategg.com



Thank you!

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