

Jon Manteau / Statement

I am fascinated by what we leave behind. From the monumental to the inconsequential, from the Great Pyramids to a name spray-painted on a rock. Why do we find it necessary to mark time, an event, a place or our presence?

The Pyramids at Giza are monuments to Khufu and his wives. The cave paintings at Lascaux document an event, "the hunt". Stonehenge and its burial mounds, were they used as a Neolithic cemetery, Druid ritual site or some other astrological, cultic purpose? Vincenzo, Ettore and Jacopo scratching their names onto Michelangelo's "Last Judgment" in the Sistine chapel. Jose and Maria scrawling their love for one another onto a park bench. Gum wads placed in a seemingly random pattern on a tree outside of an ice cream parlor.....

Regardless of what remains after our time here, nature always finds a way. We push against our natural environment, but in the end, will it bear fruit? We've been hypothesizing and theorizing as to "why are we here" throughout our entire, collective existence. I don't think anyone who has ever lived can give you a definitive answer to these questions

Humans over millennia have left an astounding catalog of monuments and artifacts, which have contributed greatly to our culture and sense of achievement. Then there are other things that we leave in our wake, the seemingly insignificant remnants of cultures past and present, our triumphs and our tragedies.