

Disaster in art, art in disaster: reviewing an improbable relationship

Florence LAHOURNAT

This paper proposes a reflection on the relationship between art and disaster throughout history, as a stepping stone to future research in the embeddedness of disaster in culture.

Whereas art and disaster may seem like they belong to antithetical domains, history shows how often and in how many various ways they have intersected and continue to do so.

Culture in its widest definition is largely a product of the natural environment and an adaptive response, and it is thus no surprise that hazards and natural phenomena in general make their way into

culture. Art - more precisely artistic expressions, is no exception.

From a risk awareness standpoint, the art/disaster relationship brings to the fore the question of its function. What does it do? What is art saying about disaster? How is it used in response to disaster?