The image shows a close-up of a book cover. The cover has a dark, textured appearance, possibly made of cloth or a similar material, with a mix of black, dark grey, and reddish-brown tones. A small, rectangular, yellowish paper label is affixed to the upper part of the cover. The label has the word "REMNANTS" written on it in a simple, black, sans-serif font. The label's edges are slightly irregular, suggesting it was torn from a sheet of paper. The background to the left of the book cover is plain white.

REMNANTS

by Sarah Chriss

Thesis Advisor Amy Kulper

2022

I. REVISION

II. TAKEN FOR GRANITE

Westerly Granite Industry, 1840-1950

Bradford Quarry reopening, 2010-

III. REMNANTS

Above, Below, and Around: Mapping the Quarry

Within: reDrawing the Quarry

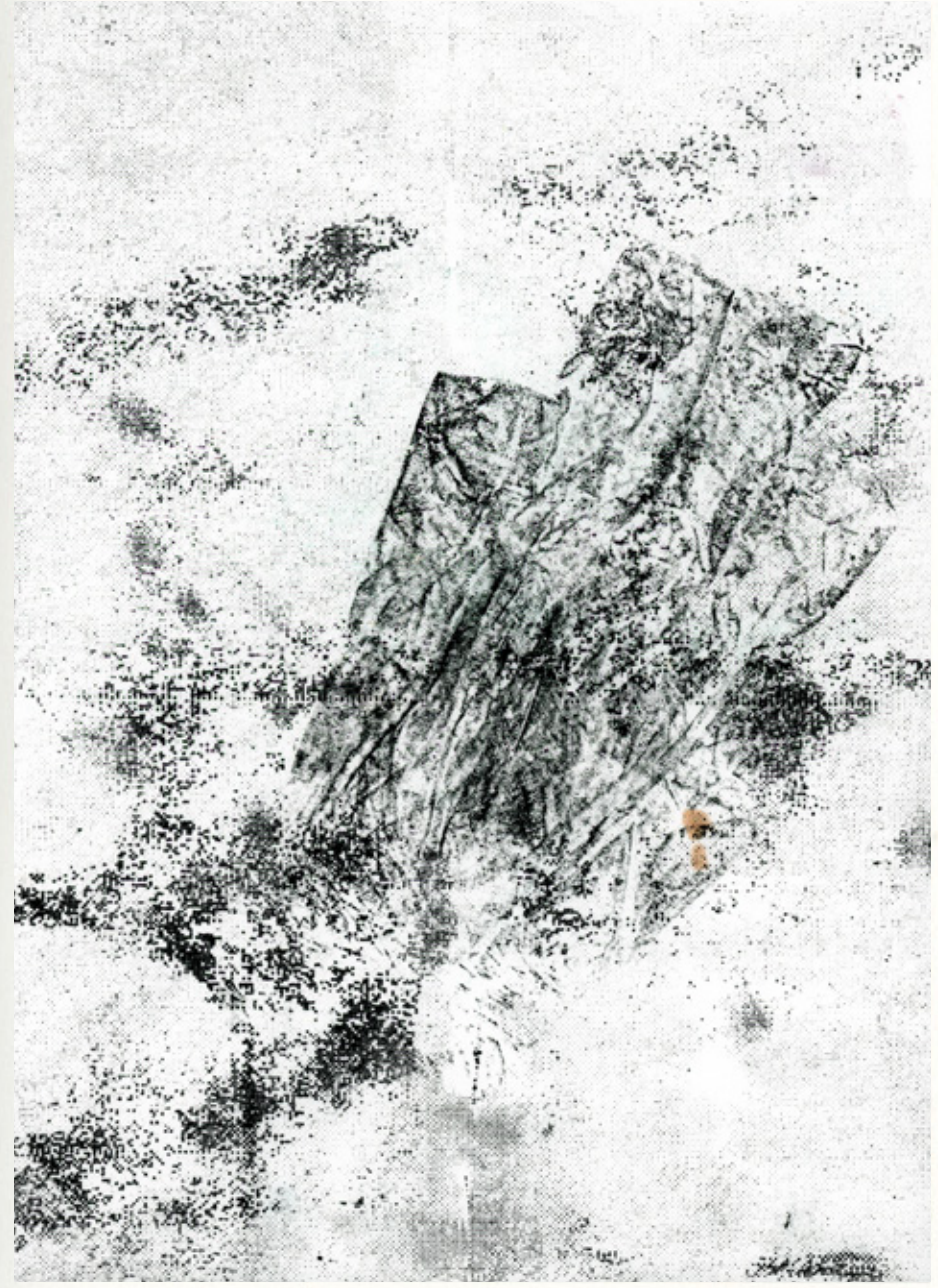
References



I. Revision

Remnants is a revision of our interaction with land extraction through reimagining processes of representation and image-making. By altering perspective and focus, the visual effects of commodity culture shift toward the consequences that occur before and after our consumption. Dependably lost in translation, spatial and temporal information of material exchanges across the globe uphold and preserve the synergy of our commodity transactions. In a field constantly playing with and pushing against the boundaries of representation, remnants aim to redraw lost connections of material transformations through a granite quarry in Rhode Island. Representation is a tool to revise visual narratives that obscure the interconnectedness of land, material, and byproducts within consumer culture.







II. Taken for Granite



Prospect Terrace
Providence, Rhode Island

The Westerly Granite Industry

Westerly, Rhode Island
1840-1950



By the 1950s, only a century after it began, most quarries closed and only a few remained for intermittent operations [3]. The ending of the granite industry marked the transition of an economic dependency from the Westerly granite industry towards commodifying the beach. As quarries remained dormant, residential neighborhoods were built around the existing extraction sites, right up to the peripheries, only hundreds of feet away.

A well-known stone,

Westerly granite comes from the southwest corner of Rhode Island. The stone formed millions of years ago during the late Pennsylvania period. The consistent properties and material value sparked a century-long extraction industry after it began around 1840 [1].

The granite extracting and cutting industry in Westerly flourished. The stone was first used for foundations and paving. When the demand for monuments, statues, tombstones, and building materials grew, the acclaimed material spread throughout the United States while simultaneously transforming the local culture [2].

[1] "The Babcock-Smith House Museum, Westerly, RI." Babcock-Smith House Museum. The Babcock-Smith House. Accessed February 2, 2022. <https://www.babcocksmithhouse.org/>.

[2] n.d. Built from Stone, The Westerly Granite Story. [ebook] Westerly, Rhode Island: Sun Publishing Co. Available at: <<https://www.babcocksmithhouse.org/GraniteIndustry/NewspaperSeries/graniteweek01.pdf>> [Accessed 1 June 2022].

[3] Built from Stone, Small Companies Replace the Giants. 10th ed. [ebook] Westerly, Rhode Island: Sun Publishing Co. Available at: <<https://www.babcocksmithhouse.org/GraniteIndustry/NewspaperSeries/graniteweek10.pdf>> [Accessed 1 June 2022].

Referencing Robert Smithson's concept of site and nonsite, the remnants of the granite, the effects of the industry, and the drawings recreated with it all become a part of varying approaches to nonsites to acknowledge the effects that permeate boundaries [4].

The Boundaries of Site



[4] Smithson, Robert. "A Provisional Theory of Nonsites." In Robert Smithson: The Collected Writings, Jack Flam. University of California Press, 1996.



Monuments built from Westerly Granite

Nonsites

- Gettysburg battlefield statues
- Monuments at Chattanooga and Chickamauga
- Statues in New York's Central Park
- Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.
- American Tract Society Building in Manhattan
- Travelers Tower in Hartford, Connecticut
- University of Rhode Island, Green Hall and Narragansett Monolith
- Brown University, Sayles Hall
- Christ Episcopal Church
- Industrial Trust Company Building
- Watch Hill Lighthouse
- Saint Pius X Church
- Westerly Town Hall
- Industrial Trust Company Building
- Christopher Columbus monument in Wilcox Park
- Private soldier monument at Antietam battlefield
- Connecticut Capitol building
- Over 300 Civil War monuments

"over 3,754 monuments standing across 32 states" [5]

[5] "The Babcock-Smith House Museum, Westerly, RI." Babcock-Smith House Museum. The Babcock-Smith House. Accessed June 1, 2022. <https://www.babcocksmithhouse.org/>.



Not pictured: Westerly Granite

In the small historic village of Bradford, on the boundary between Westerly and Charlestown, a quarry not in business for thirty years suddenly picked up operations in December 2010. The land is owned by an affluent Westerly family who leased the property to Copar Quarries LLC [6]. Once operations began again at a more aggressive rate than the previous enterprise, the residents of Bradford and close neighbors of the property were tormented by liquid dynamite blasts and carcinogenic dust disseminated by the wind [7]. The company faced multiple lawsuits, inspections, and testimonies accusing them of a string of injustices from nuisance to serious health violations.

Village of Bradford, Rhode Island



The operators barely evaded the law and remained in business as the neighbors suffered from the invisible consequences. The extracting and crushing burdened the neighbors with excessive noise. The act of crushing stone creates crystalline silica that built up in hills on the site. The particulate matter is a known carcinogen. Long-term exposure causes the lung disease silicosis [8]. As the neighbors claimed the dust constantly covered their yards, the quarry evaded consequences by claiming that the amount of silica dust on the premises was below the federal requirement. A town-funded report measured the dust diffusion to evaluate its spreading beyond the site. The data observed that the highest daily average concentration of dust was found at the elementary school one mile away [9].

[6] Carini, Frank. "Bankrupted Quarrying Operation Leaves Behind Scars." EcoRI. Accessed September 16, 2015. <https://ecori.org/2015-9-15-bankrupted-quarry-operation-leaves-scars/>.

[7] Carini, Frank. "Residents vs. Industry: Who Wins? Environment Typically Loses." EcoRI News. December 16, 2013. <https://ecori.org/2013-12-16-environment-vs-business-who-wins.html>.

[8] "Crystalline Silica: Health Risks." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), October 16, 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/silica/risks.html>.

[9] 2013. Noise and Dust Monitoring: Copar Quarry. [ebook] Providence, Rhode Island: Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. Available at: <https://static.squarespace.com/>

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Faulkner, Dale P. "'Landmark Agreement' Reached to End Copar Lawsuits." The Westerly Sun, November 8, 2017.

Faulkner, Dale P. "Master Plan Approved for Medical Marijuana Cultivation Facility." The Westerly Sun, May 30, 2019.

III. Remnants

exploring process and tools of representation to reimagine the quarry

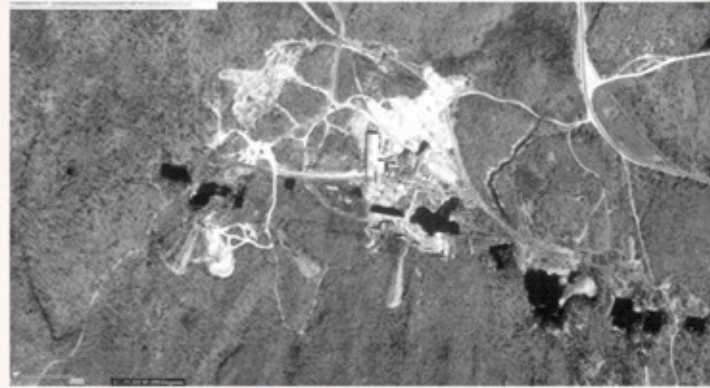
The privatized quarry stripped the project of a familiar academic architecture approach toward site analysis. Perspectival positions of above, below, and around became a systematic way to interpret and represent the conditions of and surrounding the quarry.

Above, Below, and Around:

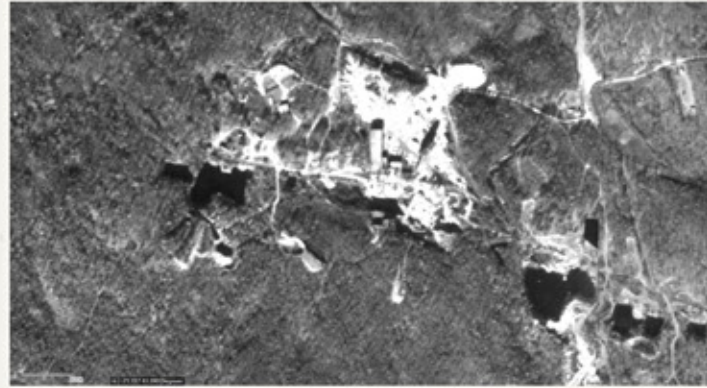
Mapping the Quarry through time-based medium



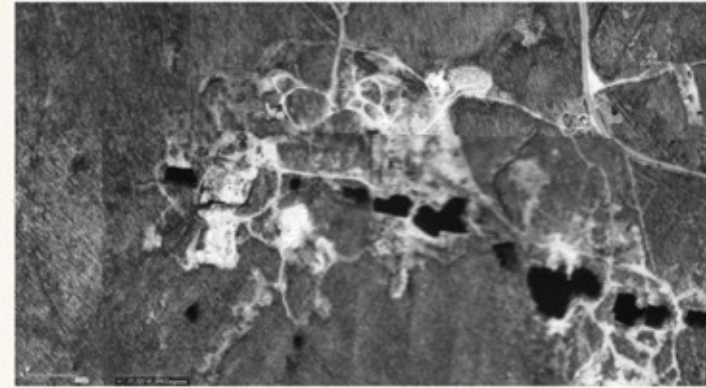
Above



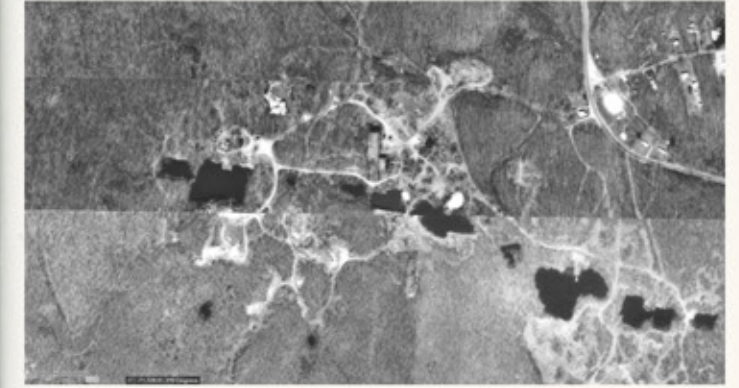
1939



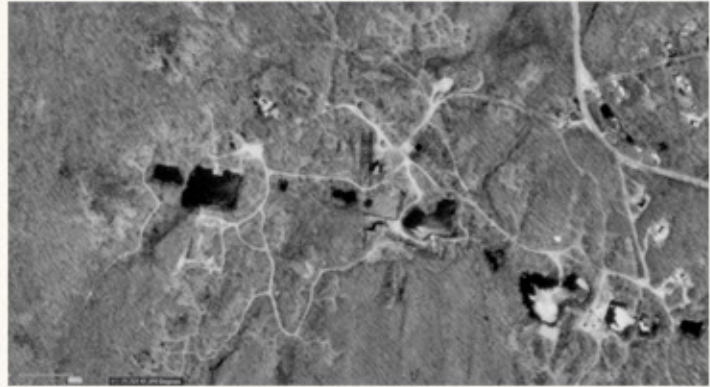
1951-52



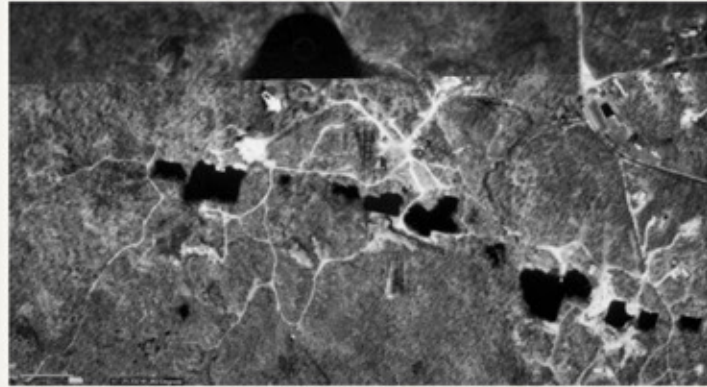
1962



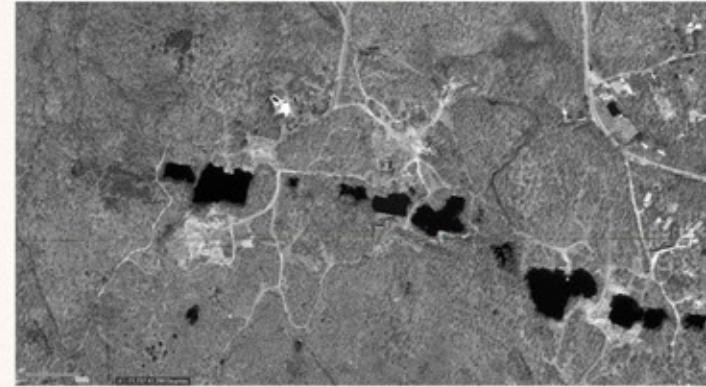
1972



1981



1988



1997



2008



2011



2014



April 2018



October 2018



April 2019



Winter 2019



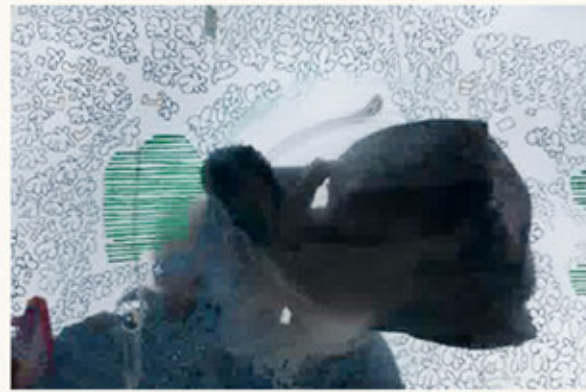
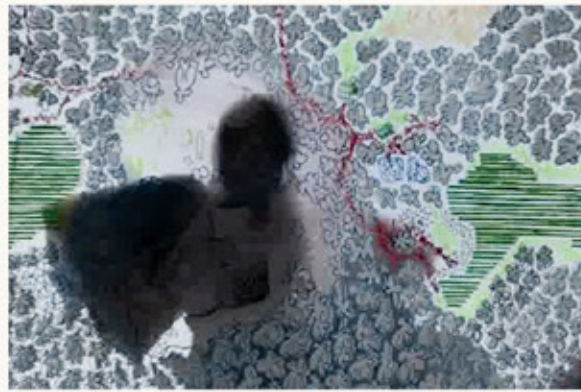
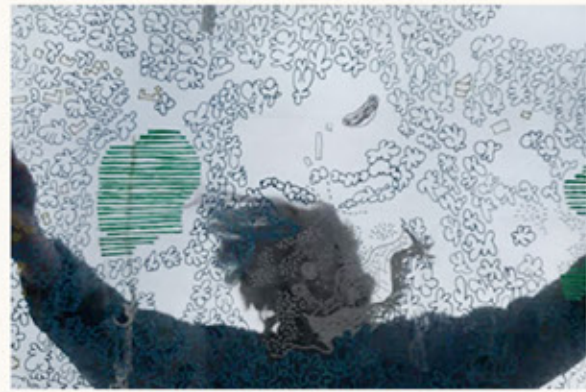
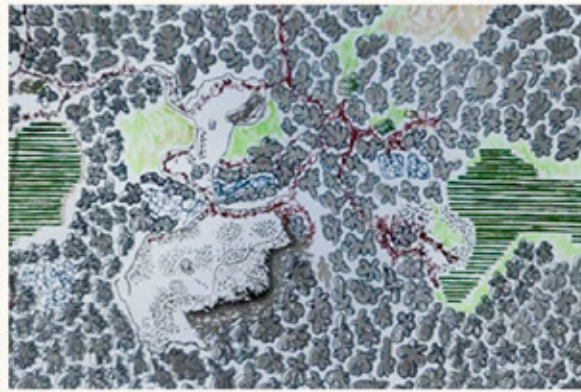
Spring 2020



Fall 2020

"RIDEM Environmental Resource Map." Map. ArcGIS. Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. Accessed June 1, 2022. <https://ridemgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index>.

Below



Around



Quarry road is the closest residential road, terminating right at the gates. Driving down and back, the footage is split, reversed and mirrored to coordinate the opposing views.

still images from personal footage



Tools

On August 30, 2016, a group of residents, city council members, EPA employees, and reporters toured the Westerly Granite Quarry on a bright and sunny day. The 55:52 minute-long video visualizes the activity from within the site. This information was screenshotted, aligned, printed, photographed, re-aligned, and rearranged through a repetitive process.

Reading the Image

The site is a standing reserve, site of return, and regeneration of natural ecosystems that imagine a more balanced relationship between humans and the earth's nonhuman inhabitants. The drawing uses imagery to tell fragmented, distorted, and deceptive memories reflecting future events. The video was screenshotted, overlaid, and reconfigured to transform the images into a sequence of panoramas.

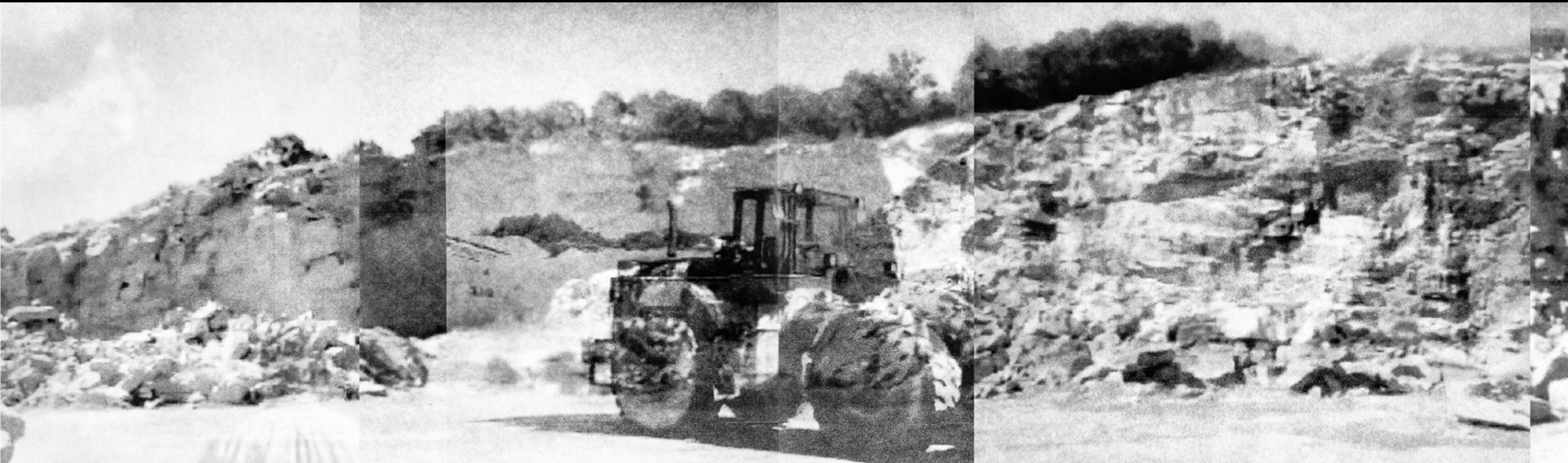
Each image delineated by strata, sequentially narrates the movement of people, rocks, machines and more. Horizontal barriers signal lengths of time for occupation and activity, while vertical seams indicate smaller fragments of frequent movement.

Within: reDrawing the Quarry

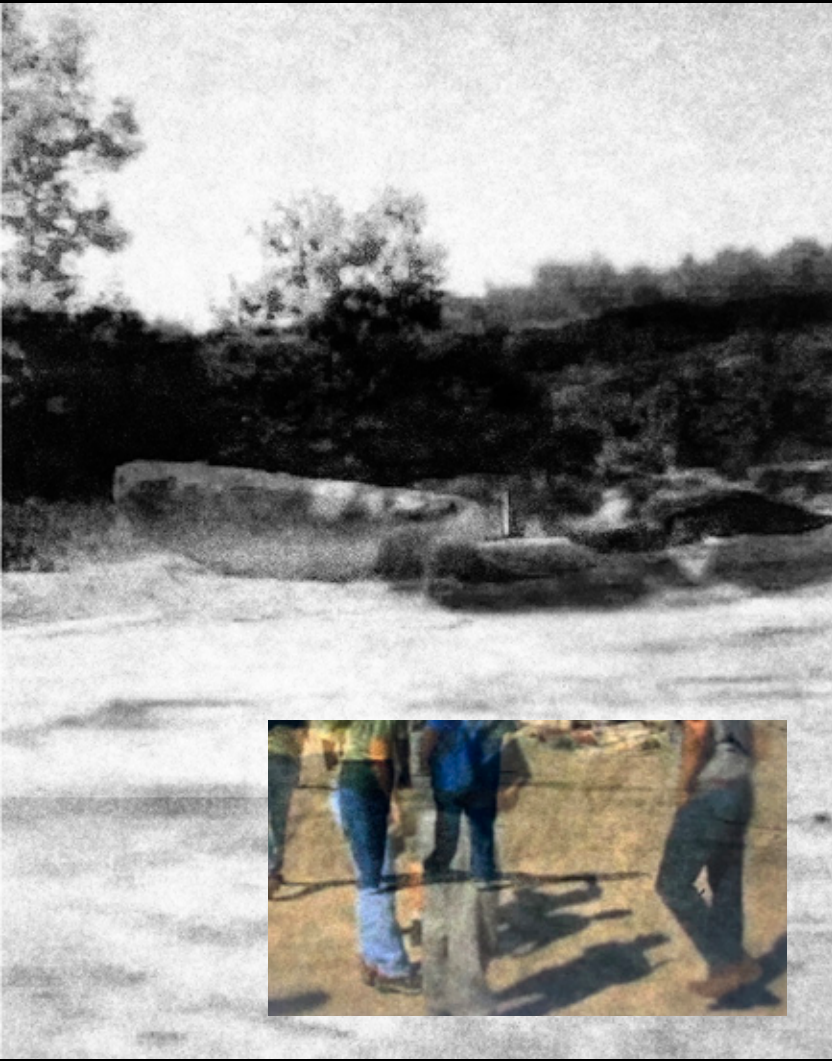


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CivicMedia?VID=Bradford-Quarry-Site-
Visit-083016-3&PREVIEW=YES](https://www.westerlyri.gov/CivicMedia?VID=Bradford-Quarry-Site-Visit-083016-3&PREVIEW=YES).

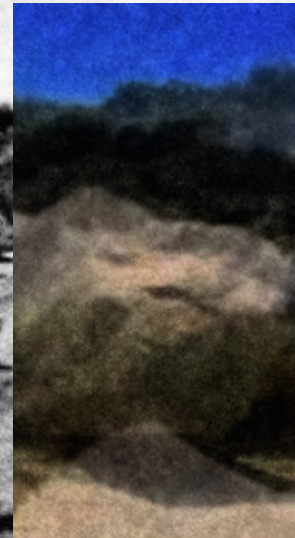




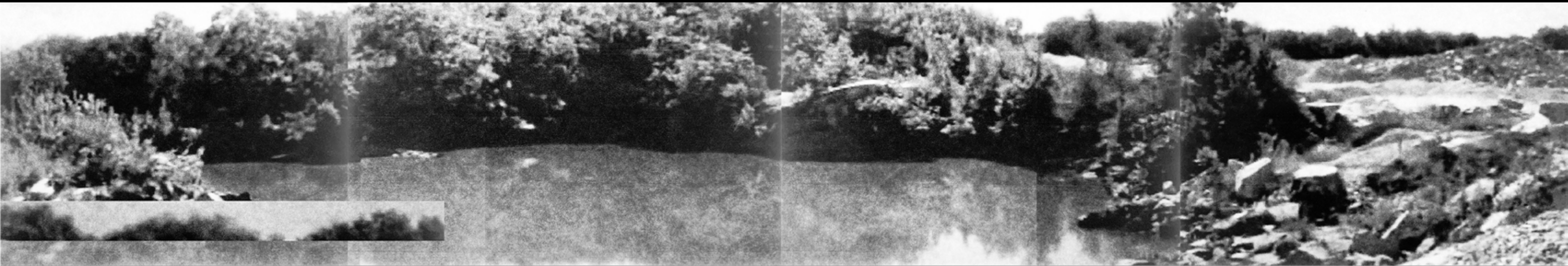


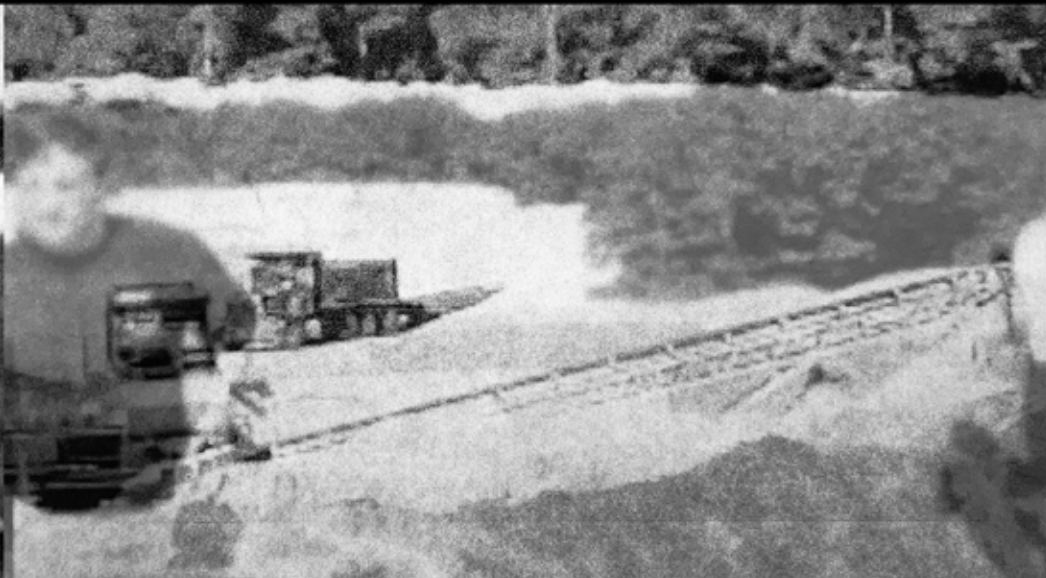














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