

Memorials: Chicago, Ft. Wayne

These memorials were created to remember lost lives and mark the sites where death takes place, usually from vehicular accidents or gun violence. Memorials for bike-related deaths are sometimes tied to an international movement called Ghost Bikes—www.ghostbikes.org—where participants lock bikes, painted white, decorated and marked with the name of the victim, at or near the site of a rider’s death.

Common features of these informal memorials include: candles; stuffed animals and toys (particularly when a child is the victim); empty bottles of alcohol; large sheets of paper or cardboard covered in personal messages; flowers (real and artificial); wreaths; balloons; photos; crosses; personal effects or mementos such as hats, and other articles of clothing.

These memorials are commonly created without seeking official city permission; many remain in place for years. Some are regularly maintained and updated with fresh flowers, signage or decorations much as one might decorate a gravesite on the deceased’s birthday or on the anniversary of their passing.

These photos were taken between 2010 and 2012 in Chicago, Illinois and Ft. Wayne, Indiana.



PUBLIC PHENOMENA  
by Temporary Services

This poster-booklet is the result of over fifteen years of photographic documentation and research on the variety of modifications and inventions that people make in public. From roadside memorials to piles of unused bicycles, people consistently alter shared common spaces to suit their needs, or let both man-made and natural aberrations run wild. The result is a new kind of public space that lies just outside of ideological articulations – with creative, inspiring, and sometimes confounding moments that push past the original planned design of cities.

Public Phenomena continues to demonstrate to us that people will always find ways to resist plans others make and try to impose on them, whether through direct defiance or quiet misuse. This inspires us to learn from city spaces and the people that use them rather than seeking to impose aesthetics on these spaces.

Temporary Services is Marc Fischer, Brett Bloom, and Salem Collo-Julin. We are based in Chicago, Copenhagen and Philadelphia. We have existed since 1998. We produce exhibitions, events, projects, and publications. The distinction between art practice and other creative human endeavors is irrelevant to us.

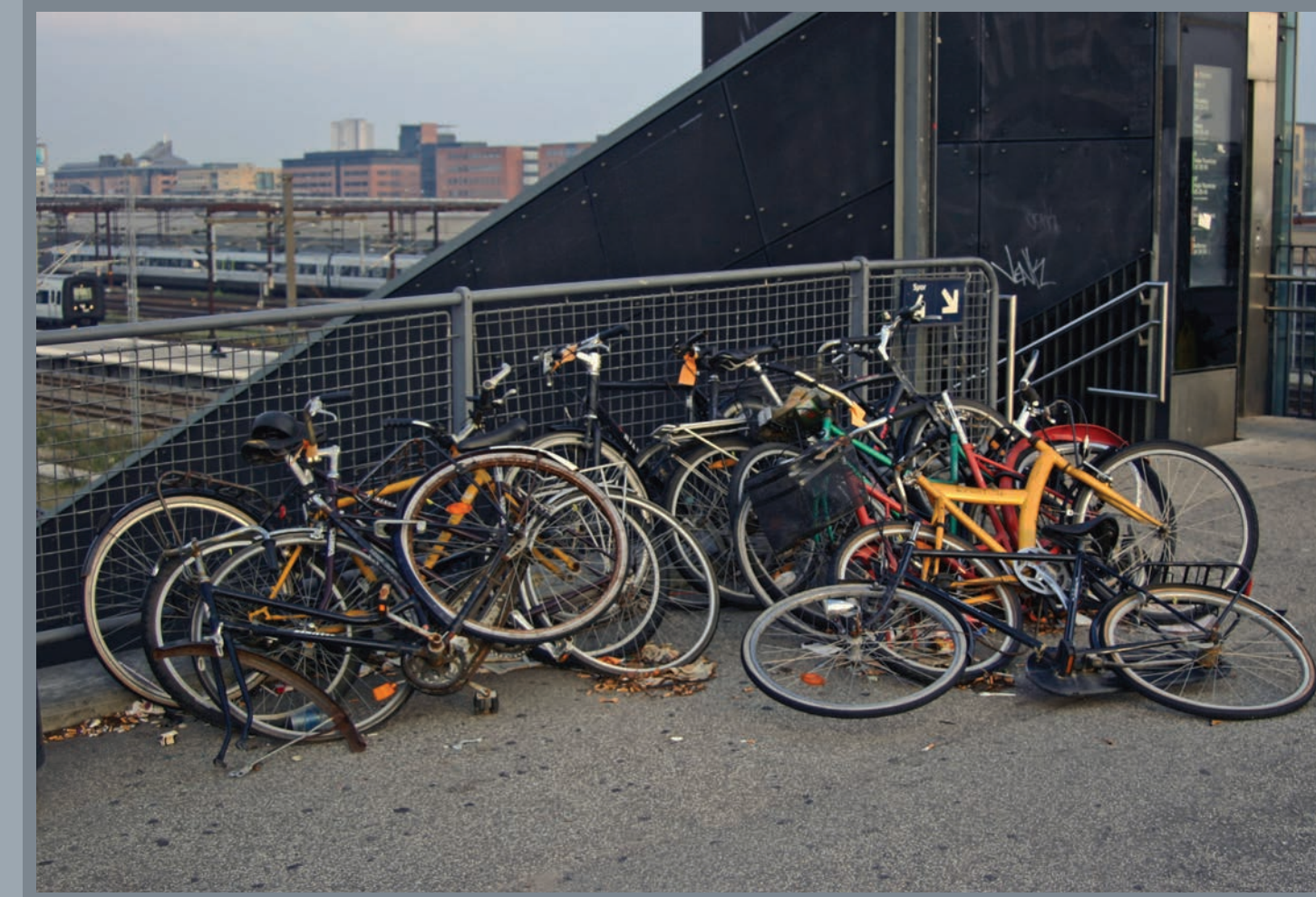
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This poster was made to accompany an exhibition at the Architectural Association in London, February 2013.







**Piles of Bikes: Aarhus, Copenhagen**

Aarhus and Copenhagen are bike-friendly Danish cities. There are separate lanes for bikes. Bicyclists have their own enforced traffic signals. Over 200,000 people commute to work by bike each day. It is common to find bike stores on nearly every other block in many parts of the cities. Denmark is a wealthy country. The government works hard to project an ecologically-conscious brand though there is no public discussion about the incredible amount of bicycle waste Danes produce. There are many bikes that are abandoned by their owners in public places, or stolen, left sitting against walls. Authorities identify bikes that have been sitting at train stations, or other public places, for long periods of time by putting tags on them to warn the owners of immanent removal. The bikes are put into piles and await transport to a recycling station or a city auction, depending on the condition they are in. It is also common to see piles of bikes sitting in the inner courtyards of apartment buildings. Piles of bikes are found all over both cities.

These photos were taken between 2006 and 2013.