

# PALIMPSEST

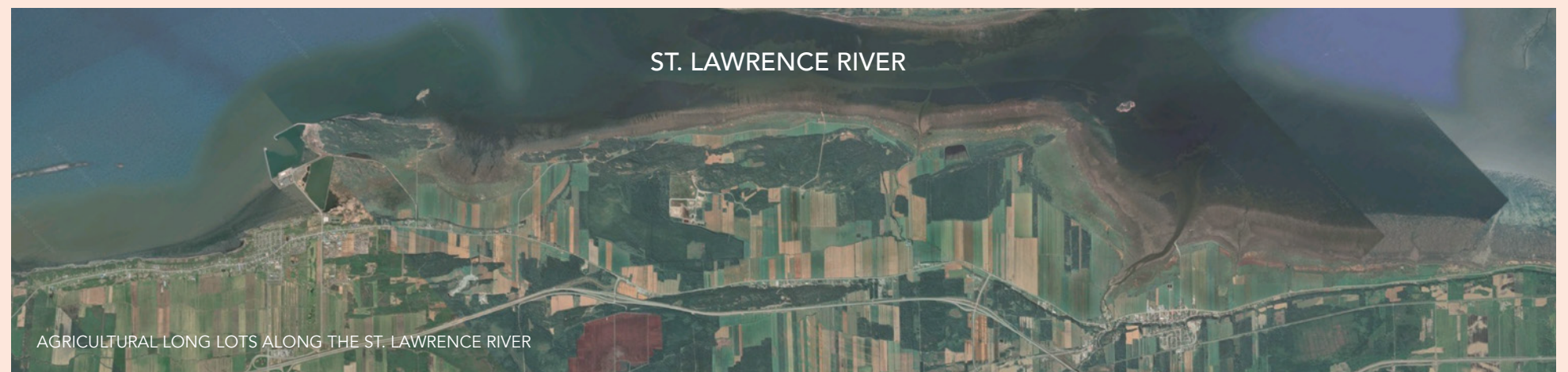
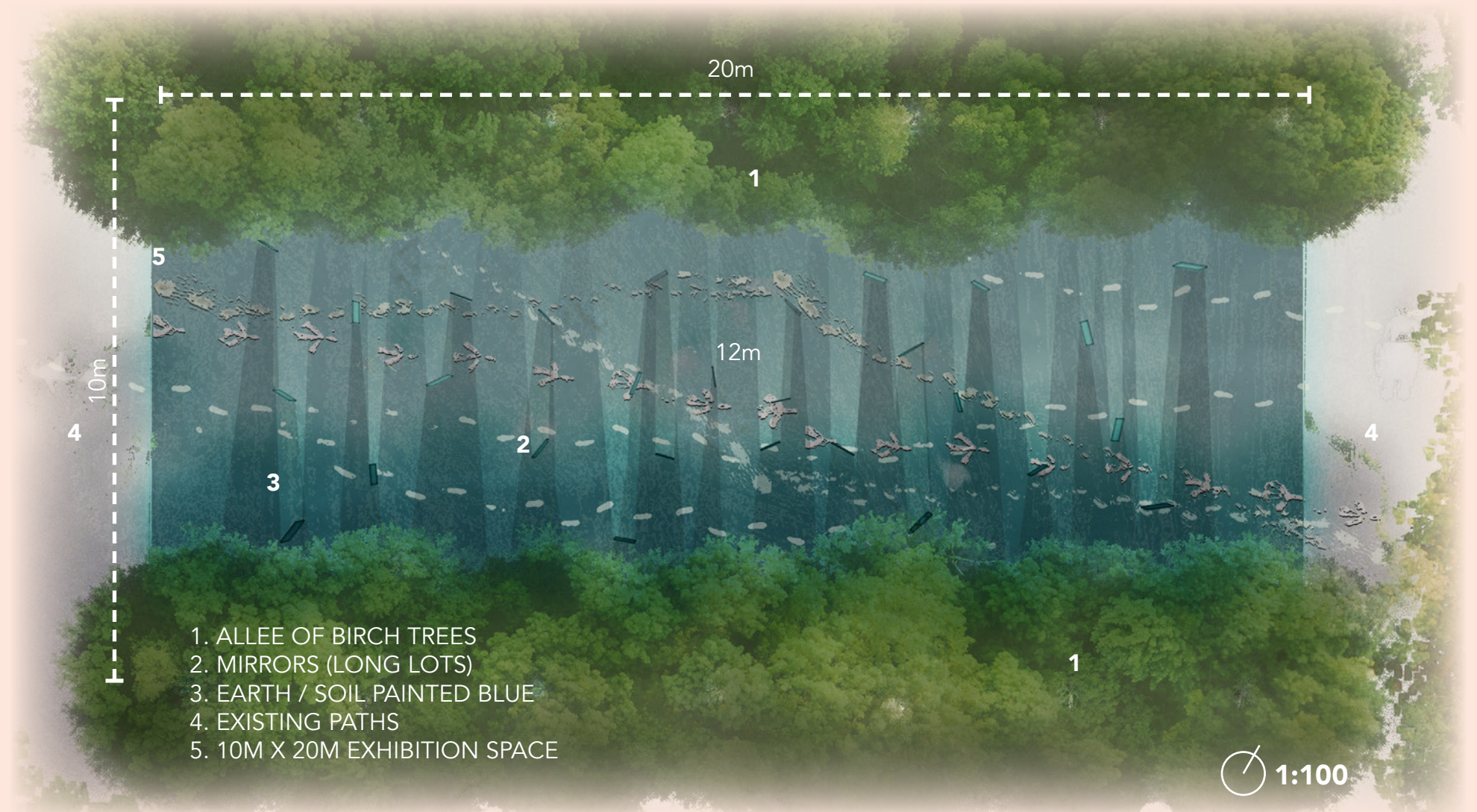
Palimpsest, from the Greek words *palin* meaning “again” and *psestos* meaning a “rubbed or smooth surface”, is defined as a manuscript or piece of writing material on which the original writing has been effaced to make room for later writing but of which traces remain. Similarly, it means something reused or altered but still bearing visible traces of its earlier form.

This definition reflects the design goal of **PALIMPSEST**, which is to showcase the unique character of this area along the St. Lawrence River and represent the French-influenced agricultural long lots that define the riverbanks.

The installation has a simple design that utilizes mirrored surfaces of varied heights and rotations to reflect the natural landscape of the site - both the surrounding forest and the landscape beyond. These reflections of the colour green on the surface of the mirrors symbolizes the agricultural long lots and reflect the site’s *roots* as a French colony and an important agricultural area for the region.

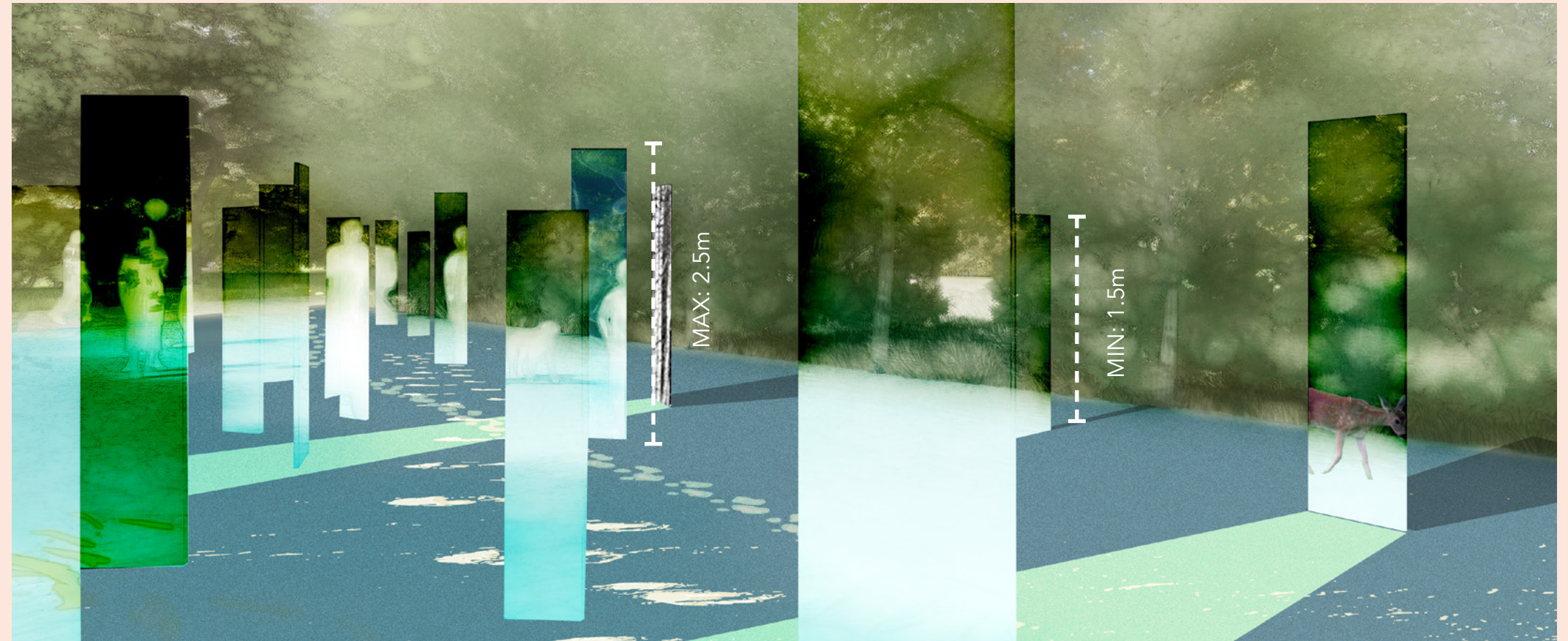
Additionally, the ground plane surface is blue in color to represent both the nearby St. Lawrence River and the site’s Himalayan Blue Poppy. Over the course of the installation, the blue surfacing will wear away as visitors traverse and move through the site, revealing a layering or *palimpsest* of human and non-human activity. The change from a smooth and serene blue surface to one marked by activity recalls the ways in which the river has been altered by agriculture and industry.

Overall, **PALIMPSEST** embraces the history of the site, its roots, as a serene Northern Quebec landscape and an important agricultural region along a prominent river in Canadian history that is the St. Lawrence, while maintaining and celebrating the site’s new and current function as a place for conversations and discourse about art, design, and our roles as humans in the reshaping of the natural world.



## mirrors/ FRENCH LONG LOTS

These reflective planes will vary in heights. The heights will be between 1.5m to 2.5m to allow for variation to reflect the different sizes of the long lots on the landscape. They will be in a randomized rotations and angles to fully capture the surrounding landscape. About 30-40 mirrors randomly spread out across the space. As visitors look at these mirrors, the pops of natural colours will give the impression of the agricultural long lots.



## blue soil/ ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

The surface of the exhibition space will be painted blue which will symbolize the St. Lawrence River. The colour blue is chosen to reflect the water, as well as the Himalayan Blue Poppy which is the iconic flower of the site. The surface material will be painted soil and as people walk through the space, it will start to chip away the blue paint on its surface, revealing the true color of the soil underneath. This represents how we as humans have changed the fabric of the land through activities such as agriculture and industries. These marks of human activity across the exhibition space reflects the idea of a palimpsest, or to reveal the traces of the past.

