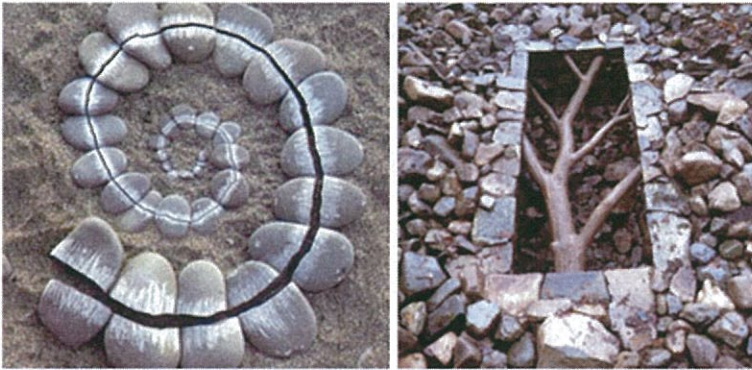


10.11 Earth Art Group Activity

Historical and Cultural Context

Earth Art is an art movement which emerged in the United States in the late 1960s and early 1970s, in which landscape and the work of art are inextricably linked. It is also an art form that is created in nature, using natural materials such as soil, rock (bed rock, boulders, stones), organic media (logs, branches, leaves and water). Sculptures are not placed in the landscape, rather, the landscape is the means of their creation. The works frequently exist in the open, located well away from civilization, left to change and erode under natural conditions. Many of the first works, created in the deserts of Nevada, New Mexico, Utah or Arizona were ephemeral (existed only briefly) in nature and now only exist as video recordings or photographic documents.



Andy Goldsworthy is a British artist who works with nature to produce some extraordinary artworks. He uses no tools or man made products. Everything is constructed with just his bare hands and whatever nature has to offer.

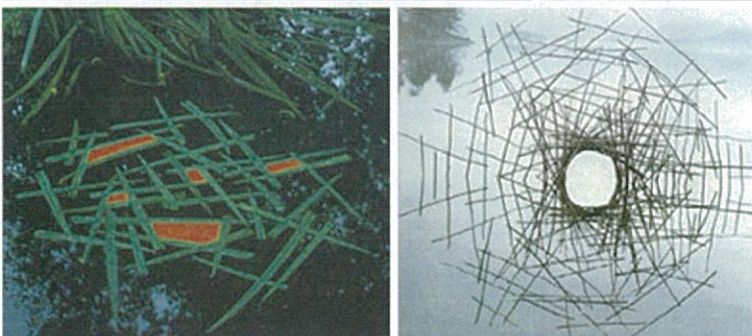
He mostly works alone and much of his work is time consuming requiring patience and persistence. His work usual has a very short life span as the elements reclaim the materials back into the life cycle. They are like brief memories that only he gets to experience firsthand. Thanks to photography, he is able to share his creations with the rest of the world.

He has been described as an environmentalist whose message reflects on and reminds us that the earth is a living, breathing organism that requires balance in order to survive.

Design Brief

You will be working in small groups of 4 - 5 people. As a group you will need to work together and produce an artwork using your natural surroundings. You will need to communicate a message or idea and this must be discussed within the group before commencing. You can choose to communicate in a literal or obvious manner

or you may wish to use a more metaphoric or symbolic approach to express meaning.



Constraints

The Environment - you can only use what you find on the forest floor. Under no circumstances are you to cause a negative impact on your space. In other words, if it is green then leave it alone!

Time - You will be given a 2 hour timeframe. This includes preparation and planning time.

Considerations

Try and connect with the space in which you are working and the materials you are working with. Your theme should in some way consider and reflect on your immediate environment.

Your artwork may compliment your natural surrounding or it may react against it to create tension. These are things that will need to be considered in the planning stages.

Scale, Form and Space are essential design elements when working with three dimensions. Often artists will create multiple forms that span a wide area. The viewer can then interact with the artwork by wandering between the structures enhancing the overall experience.

Presentation

At the end of the 2 hour period, each group will present their artwork to the rest of their peers. Someone in the group will need to explain how they interpreted the brief and what they were trying to communicate.

