

Rivers and Tides: Working with Time

Andy Goldsworthy

Your next project is to develop an idea that is conceived around the idea of a 'gift'. To begin your imagining I have given you two articles to read on the concept of the GIFT as discussed by two anthropologists.

The second aspect of your project is that it must exist in time. In art we speak about painting and sculpture as being two-dimensional and three-dimensional respectively. A painting or drawing has height and width (2 dimensions), while a sculpture has three (height, width and depth). A fourth dimension can include the element of time. Something that exists with duration can be considered 4-D. That might include, films, songs, performance, or most any real action.

Now, you are going to watch this film on the work of Andy Goldsworthy.

Andy Goldsworthy is a famous Scottish artist. Instead of working with traditional media to make art, he works with nature. At the same time, instead of thinking about his art as something that will last a long time and be in a museum, he is more interested in art that is ephemeral. That is, it doesn't last long. Since his work is made to last only a short time, he takes pictures of it to document what he did.

To him, the art is in the making of the work...it's about the process.

Before next week, answer these questions about his work and/or his intentions. Be ready to discuss these issues in class.

1. What is Goldsworthy's source of Inspiration?
2. Goldsworthy works with time in more than one way. Talk about some of the ways his work engages time and makes us think about time.
3. Goldsworthy thinks of his work as a Gift. In at least one instance in the film he talks about that. How is his work a gift?
4. Does Goldsworthy's work make you think or feel any particular way about nature? Discuss.
5. Does it make you think any particular way about him as an artist? Discuss.
6. We have learned that Contemporary Artists are using varied means and media to engage their audiences through art. Since Goldsworthy doesn't make art that lasts a long time to go in museums, and it is made often in remote locations, how is it that he engages an audience?