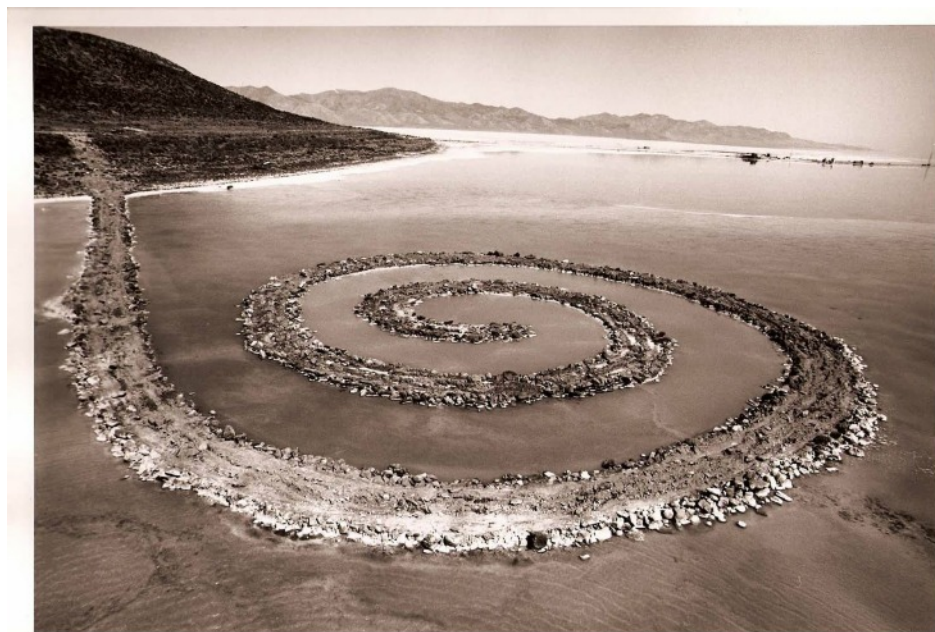


# Land Art: Art from Earth, Rocks, Leaves and Twigs

Melanie Paice - 21 November 2012

## Background Notes



*Spiral Jetty* by Robert Smithson

**WAHG**

Winchester Art History Group

[www.wahg.org.uk](http://www.wahg.org.uk)

**Land Art** – where the land (or landscape) is used to make the art work - also known as Earthworks or Earth Art or Environmental Art. It is an art form that developed in the late 1960s. In one sense, it was a return to the landscape tradition. However, land art is primarily physical and non representational. The land itself was used as the site in which the process of art making takes place and as the material with which the art work is made. These works are often made in remote places and it is usually only available to the viewer only through preparatory drawings, film, photographs, maps and textual documentation. Land artists also make artworks in the gallery by bringing material from the landscape and using it to create installations.

Land Art is subject to the process of erosion over time and thus can be interpreted as a gesture against the art market and its commodification of art. However, The documentation of Land art – preparatory drawings, photographs, maps and text – have themselves become works of conceptual art which are shown in galleries and sold on the art market.

Land Art is not an art movement. The term covers a variety of site specific and sculptural work made by a range of artists, initially in the 1960s and 1970s but continuing right through to the present day. Land Art has links with Minimalism, Arte Povera and Conceptual Art.

# American Land Artists

**Walter De Maria** b.1935: sculptor and composer.

Initially studied painting and then moved to sculpture. Best known work is *Lightning Field* (1977) in New Mexico. Lives and works in New York.

**Michael Heizer** b.1944: artist specialising in large scale sculptures.

Best known work is *Double Negative* (1969-70) Nevada desert. Lives and works in Hiko, Nevada.

**Robert Smithson** b.1938 d. 1973: sculptor, writer and theorist.

His work *Spiral Jetty* 1970 at Rozel Point, Great Salt Lake, Utah is perhaps the most famous land art piece.

**James Turrell** b.1941: artist who works primarily with light.

Initially studied psychology and maths before getting an MA in art. You can see work of his at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield and Kielder Water Forest Park, Northumberland.

**Ana Mendieta** b.1948 d.1985: her work falls between Land, Body and Performance art.

Born in Cuba but sent to US as a political refugee as a child. Studied painting at the University of Iowa and began making performance pieces involving the land whilst still studying for her degree.



*James Turrell's Sky Space in Kielder Water Forest Park*



Andy Goldsworthy at work - from the film *Rivers and Tides* Director Thomas Riedelsheimer

## **British Land Artists**

**Richard Long** b. 1945: sculptor, photographer and conceptual artist.

He goes on long walks and expeditions where he makes work such as stone circles in the landscape and photographs them. He also records aspects of his walk which are often later used as text over his photographs. Of the British Land Artists, he is best represented in National Museums and Galleries.

He has work in Tate collection.

**Hamish Fulton** b.1946: describes himself as a Walking Artist.

He is an artist who goes on long walks and the experience of the walk is part of the art work. He also makes wall pieces which display elements that he has experienced on his walks, or that describe or record his walk in some way.

Also has work in Tate collection.

**Andy Goldsworthy** b.1956

Works in the landscape using only natural materials and processes to create his sculptures. They are often extremely delicate. He photographs the work he makes. Best known through the books of his work.

# Melanie Paice Artist

## Bio

I am an artist and art lecturer. I love sharing my passion for art with others whether it be through my paintings, tutoring or lecturing.

I studied art at Central St Martins and De Montfort University. I went on to work at Tate Modern and Tate Britain for over 7 years where I set up the Tours Programme. In 2007 I became freelance to give more time to my own art work and to work on projects for organisations such as Frieze Art Fair.

I live in Woking, Surrey and teach a variety of courses in the surrounding area as well as lecturing for Dulwich Picture Gallery, London. My own art work is inspired by nature and architecture. My current interest is in trees, woodland, butterflies and bees. I hope to show the beauty in the things that too often go unnoticed.

Contact me at [melanie@melaniepaice.com](mailto:melanie@melaniepaice.com)

# Winchester Art History Group

## Events January to June 2013

- 16 Jan** **Seeing Signs and Deciphering Symbols** Illustrated Seminar by Dr. Antonia Whitley
- 23 Jan** Group visit to **National Gallery** led by Dr. Antonia Whitley
- 13 Feb** **William Morris and his Legacy** Illustrated seminar by Mary Greensted
- 27 Feb** **Art Nouveau 1900** Illustrated seminar by Dr. Anne Anderson
- 6 Mar** Group visit and guided tour of **Winchester College Watercolour collection and Treasury**
- 20 Mar** **Art as politics in late medieval and Renaissance Sienna**  
Illustrated seminar by Dr Antonia Whitley
- 27 Mar** Group visit to **Manet Exhibition** at the Royal Academy
- 17 Apr** **David, Ingres and Goya: art in the service of Politics** Illustrated seminar by Beth Taylor
- 8 May** **Dada and Surrealism: radical avant-garde art**  
Illustrated seminar by Beth Taylor.
- 15 May** **AGM 10 - 11am**  
**The Utopian Globalists: Artists of Worldwide Revolution, 1919-2009** Illustrated seminar by Professor Jonathan Harris
- 22 May** Group visit and guided tour of **British Surrealist Art** at Southampton City Art Gallery led by Tim Craven, Lead Curator.
- 12 Jun** **Art in the Open Air: Artists' Gardens and Sculpture Parks**  
Illustrated seminar by Melanie Paice

The logo for Winchester Art History Group (WAHG) is displayed in a bold, green, stylized font. The letters are thick and blocky, with a slight shadow effect, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The 'W' and 'A' are connected, and the 'H' and 'G' are also connected. The overall style is modern and eye-catching.