

Andy Goldsworthy, Rowan leaves laid around a
hole, Yorkshire, 1987

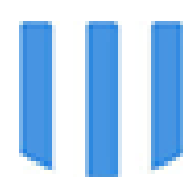
WALKERS ART CLUB

ENVIRONMENTAL ART



NATIONAL
GALLERY

CAYMAN
ISLANDS



WALKERS

In This Lesson

This outdoor activity keeps students active and shakes up the routine of being indoors. This activity encourages students to locate found objects, whether natural or man-made, and create intricate patterns using colour, contrast, line symmetry, asymmetrical balance and even the Fibonacci sequence. This lesson will also engage students' writing skills; students can write about the difference between man-made objects versus natural objects, and even comment on the environmental impacts of litter as close as their back yard.



Inspiration Artist:

Andy Goldsworthy

Andy Goldsworthy, born on July 29, 1956 in Cheshire, United Kingdom, is a British artist known for his site-specific installations involving natural materials and the passage of time. In 1985, the artist moved to Scotland where he began producing work inspired by Robert Smithson and other Land Art artists from the 1960s and 1970s.

Working as both sculptor and photographer, Goldsworthy crafts his installations out of rocks, ice, leaves, or branches, all the while knowing that it may not last in an ever changing landscape. Documentation through photography is the only way to fully preserve his creations.

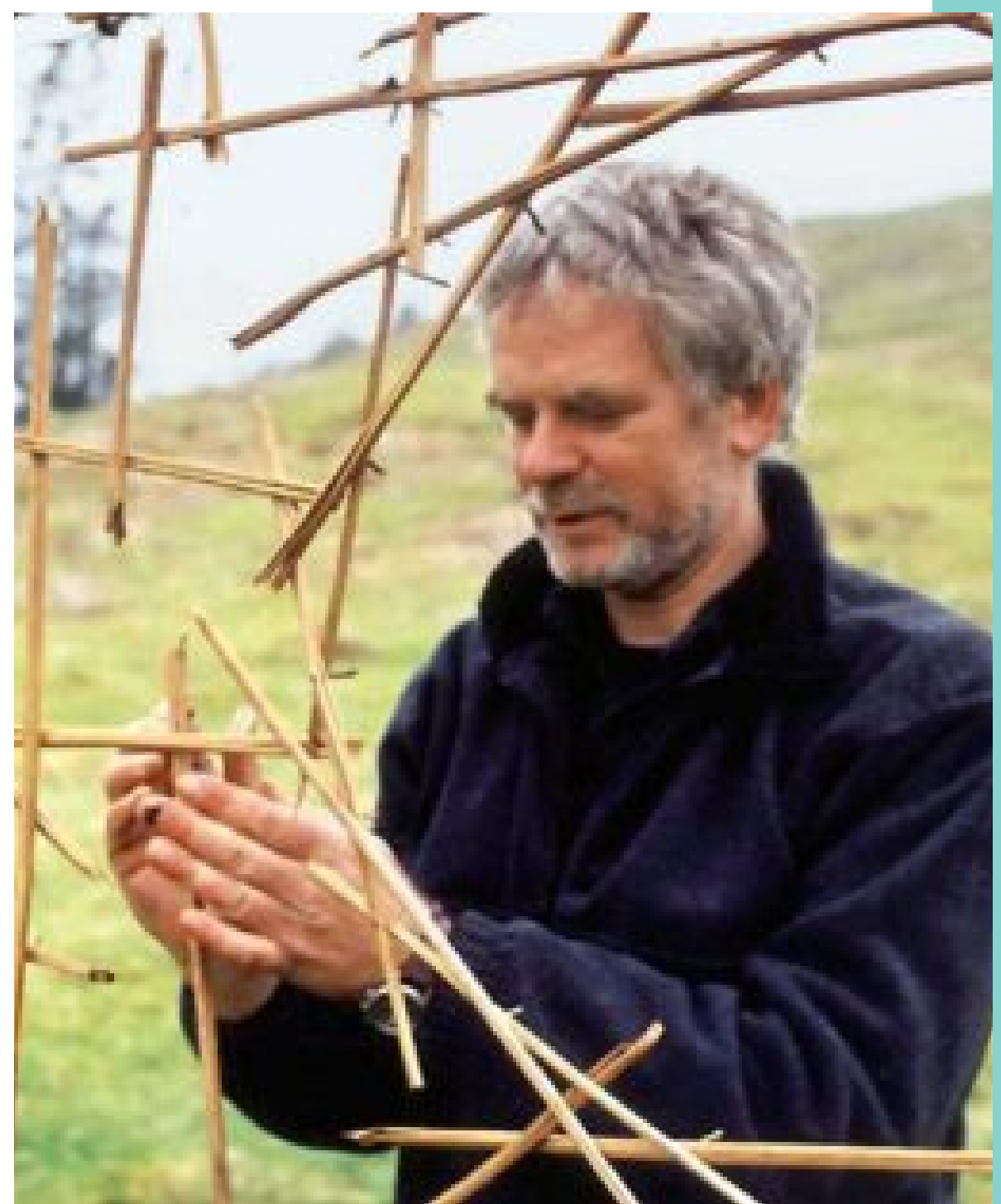


Image via Widewalls

Andy Goldsworthy is an excellent example of an artist who is not only inspired by nature, but creates art using natural materials. His land art sculptures are intentionally temporary and left in their environment. As a starting point, you can look at the artists' own works of art – either by the picture provided in this packet or by searching his name online – and identify how the artist created lines and shapes using natural materials.

Artwork Examples



Andy Goldsworthy,
Woven bamboo,
Kiinagashima-Cho,
Japan, 27..., 1987

Andy Goldsworthy,
Beach Cairn, 1987



Local Artist Using Found Objects



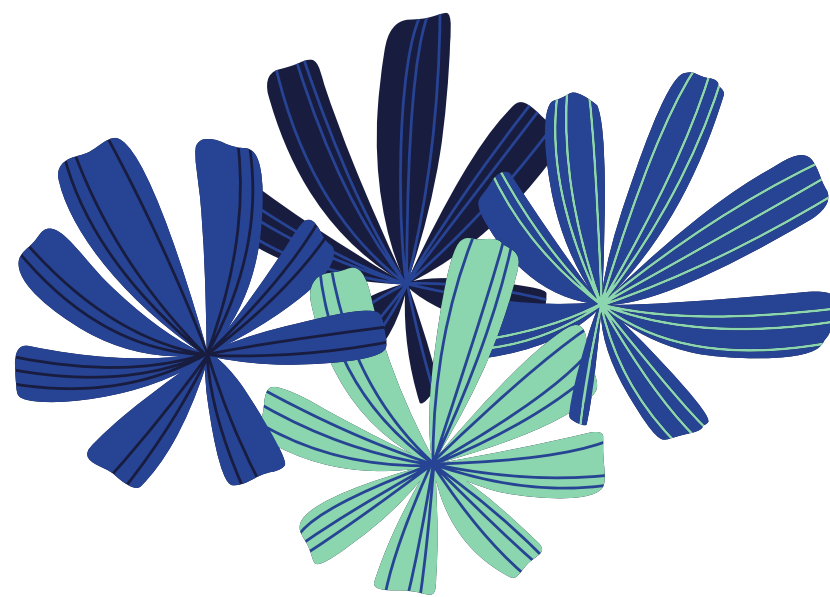
Kaitlyn Elphinstone, *Woven Sea Fan*, 2013.

Woven Sea Fan uses found objects to address the artist's concerns about environmental sustainability and ocean pollution. By carefully weaving plastic threads over and under the delicate lace pattern of the soft coral sea fan, she not only draws attention to the human need to control nature, but also creates an unexpected contrast between the perfections and imperfections of the world.

While Elphinstone's work does not remain in nature to slowly fade over time, it does use natural and found objects to comment on humans' relationship with the environment.

Art Activity Objectives and Considerations

- Watch this Youtube video to learn more about Goldsworthy's process: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DjCMqtJr0Q>
- Create an outdoor art installation using natural or man-made objects from your own neighbourhood.
- Create pieces that have a line of symmetry, asymmetry, trigonometry, line of best fit or other mathematical patterns you have learned in your classrooms.
- Try creating a piece that is 50/50 man-made to natural objects.
- Consider how man-made objects contrast objects found in nature.
- Experiment with using different sized objects.
- Try creating a monochromatic art piece (using only one colour).



Here are a few helpful links:

<http://www.eniscuola.net/en/2016/06/27/the-numbers-of-nature-the-fibonacci-sequence/>

<https://www.redtedart.com/kids-get-arty-andy-goldsworthy/>

Recording Your Artwork

- Document your artwork over a 3-day period to record its changes. You can do this through photography or sketching.
- When photographing, consider your camera angles, light and exposure.
- Draw your creations from different angles.
- Create a still life of at least three natural items found in your backyard.
- Sketch your land art sculpture.
- Take photos over 3 days to document changes.
- Draw your artwork from 3 different angles.
- Re-imagine the environment as a different season, climate, or planet.
- Photograph your art work at different times of the day.
- Experiment with camera and drawing angles.

Links for photography tips:

<https://photographylife.com/what-is-exposure>

<https://www.digitaltrends.com/photography/understanding-exposure-settings/>

<https://petapixel.com/2016/09/14/20-composition-techniques-will-improve-photos/>

Follow-up Questions

- What changes did you notice to your artwork over time?
- Can you express what it felt like to create a piece of art that would not last forever?
- Do the photographs and sketches you created to record the artwork's changes become works of art themselves?
- If you were to create an art show using these photographs and/or sketches, what pieces would you choose and how would you lay them out?
- What was Goldsworthy's process in assembling his works of art? What was your own process?
- How does Andy Goldsworthy set up the values that lead the eye around the art work?
- Do you think this artist's works can be used in a math class? Why, or why not?
- What can this style of art teach us about the environment?

Primary Level Students

Here are some images of artworks made by students under 10 years. These can be done individually, with a parent or as a group.

Arrange leaves, sticks and plants into patterns in your garden. Try grouping by colour, shape, size or texture. This is a great practical way to engage younger students with colour, lines, repetition and motion, and show them how principles of art are present in nature!

