

DUE April 28, 2020

Topic: Environmental Art

April 22nd is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in America. The celebration of Earth Day was inspired by the book “Silent Spring” by Rachel Carson. For the past 45 years, many artists have turned to nature to create or re-create useful and decorative arts with everything from small stones, to twigs and branches, to tree bark, leaves, and more!

One artist stands out among the many for his contributions to honoring our natural environment by creating art using natural objects (as mentioned above) and creating the art in nature. **Andy Goldsworthy** (born in Scotland in 1956) is arguably the most famous for his creation of natural art in nature in all climates and seasons around the world since 1978.

- **Research his images on Google** by typing: “**Andy Goldsworthy for middle school students**” in the Search bar.
 - Look at the array of images that students used to emulate or copy some of Goldsworthy’s stylings with swirls, and other fanciful line work, and with all manner of hard to soft grass-like materials.

The Key to Andy Goldsworthy’s art is that it is often “temporary”, as it erodes, dissolves, and disintegrates back into nature. It is naturally composted and does no harm to nature, since the materials are from nature.

Elements and principles of design: (if in school we would have added to your art journals)

- Line, shape, color, texture, lights to darks, balance, emphasis, repetition, unity, rhythm.

Your Project:

Your project for the next two weeks is to explore outdoors.

- Either indoors or out you will be demonstrating to me how Andy Goldsworthy respects nature by using nature and recycling it back to nature as compost.
 - Find and pick (where allowed in your own yard) a grouping of materials such as dirt, gravel, small stones.
 - Find a place to do shallow digging like you are carving the earth to create an outdoor environmental piece of art that can be naturally composted.
 - **When your creation is done:**
 - Take several photos of it on your phone and send to me at assumptionart@nelson-tel.net WITH YOUR NAME ATTACHED.
 - Include a written description of your creative process, answering what you liked best (or not) about Environmental art in contemporary art worldwide.

REMEMBER, public places like parks are closed because of the pandemic.

- Use your own materials in your yard.

- If you don't have a yard, you can still create a Goldsworthy-like piece using a repetition of materials like tooth picks, yarns, strings, wires, ribbons, cut paper, etc.
- If you choose to do a 3rd idea like ice cubes melted together, then melted into a puddle, fine!! Just take pictures of it from beginning to end in 2-4 images.
- Other appropriate choices/ideas:
 - Mud dough - also called clay,
 - Playing with bread dough shapes and baking (because bread is bio degradable).
 - Also sculpting or molding wet sand in a sandbox would work too.
 - Use your imaginations and try to be brave!

Have fun!! I look forward to seeing your results either in hard copy art projects, or photographed in its evolution from finished to decomposed or melted, with written description – including what you liked best or not about Environmental art in contemporary art world wide.

All due by April 28, 2020.

Thank you!!

Ms. D
Art Specialist