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Woodlands, Waterways and Wastelands

Lucy McLauchlan

You may have noticed the huge, flowing leaf-like shapes which appeared on the front of The Burton Art Gallery during the third lockdown.



They were painted by contemporary street artist Lucy McLauchlan.

Our current exhibition 'Woodlands, Waterways and Wastelands' shows a series of Lucy's works which were painted and printed outdoors in all weathers.

On show are works made in different places, from the forests of Moscow, Stoke-on-Trent's industrial wastelands to some of the oldest wastelands in the Midlands.

She was inspired by the shapes, textures and materials she found in each of the environments she studied, and her work was influenced and altered by the elements.

Imagine working outdoors in all weathers; what might happen to your drawings and paintings as you work?



Lashing rain might splash onto your work
The wind might tear and flap canvas
Colours and marks might be smudged or washed away
Paint may drip and puddle


Perhaps the heat of the sun will bake and crack mud and paint

Different weather may make you feel different, so your marks may be gentle and flowing one day, and hurried and jerky on another.



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Have a go yourself.....



Take some paper, fabric or canvases into your chosen outdoor space, along with mark-making materials such as charcoal, mud or clay mixed with water, natural dyes or paints, brushes, twigs and feathers.

Spend time in your space, looking, listening and feeling textures. Use your materials to make marks onto your chosen surfaces.

Perhaps you could make rubbings of the different textures you notice, eg. tree bark or bricks.

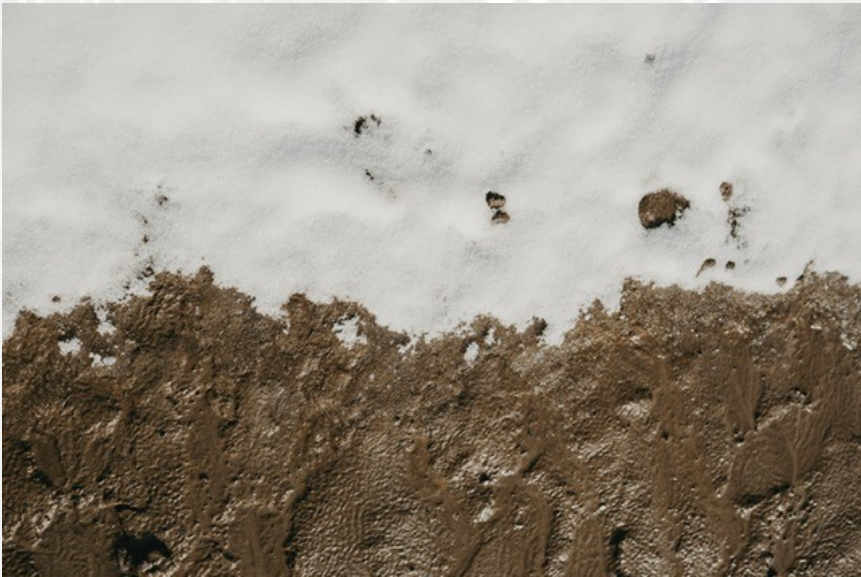




Mishaal Zahed; Unsplash



Karen Maes; Unsplash



Jasmin Causor; Unsplash



Research other artists ...

Artists who work with natural materials directly in the environment are known as 'Land', 'Environmental' or 'Earth' artists.

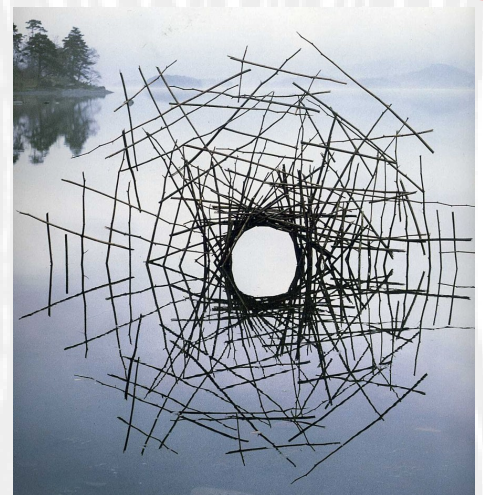


Richard Long



Sir Richard Julian Long, (born 2 June 1945) is an English sculptor and one of the best-known British land artists.

Andy Goldsworthy



Andy Goldsworthy OBE (Born 26th July 1956) is a British sculptor, photographer and environmentalist who produces sculptures and land art situated in natural and urban settings. He lives and works in Scotland.

Kurt Jackson



Kurt Jackson (Born 21st September 1961) is a British painter whose large works reflect his passion for natural history, ecology and environmental issues. He lives and works in Cornwall.