



Art: *Room*

Site: Exterior wooded site

Place: Kentuck Knob

Location: Chalk Hill, PA

Artist: Andy Goldsworthy



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As with so many Goldsworthy works, this one relates well to its environs. Basically, it is a full-circle dry-stack stone wall with a couple of breaks just wide enough to sidle through. It is built in a deeply wooded area with hardly a shred of sunlight, but just enough to add mystery to the stone work's imagined ancient origins; the overhead canopy makes it feel like a domicile. The slits in the wall mimic the tree trunks all around – linear interruptions as figures in-ground, a play with positive and negative space. There are trees corralled inside the structure, a signature of the artist in an interweaving of natural and manmade. It could be some primitive calendar or a storage site or a battlement. Our sense of it is quite different from outside to inside; the exterior is slightly forbidding, while the inside is safe and womblike. The dappled light is mimicked in the dappled stone. We all have some familiarity with garden rooms, spaces that allow us to take in but not be overwhelmed by nature. This room is nature's own, delineated by walls made of its own materials and open to its elements. It encloses, but not completely. It distinguishes and it blends. It exists honestly and without pretense. Its meaning is open-ended, allowing you to see it as you wish. It helps you to see nature in relation to it – framing it in an organized way but allowing it to be on its own terms.

Impact:

- Spatially interesting, interior/exterior
 - Scale
 - Interactive
 - Primal/spiritual
- Positive/negative space defined
 - Integrated in setting

Art-to-Site Rating: High

View Date: August 2007



Sculpturehead

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