



Art: *Schunnemunk Fork*

Site: Rolling foothills

Place: Storm King Art Center

Location: Mountainville, NY

Artist: Richard Serra

Image available at:

www.stormking.org/RichardSerra.html

Hard steel against soft, grass-covered waves of earth; geometric slabs inserted into wind- and time-contoured landforms; straight and level hard-edged lines drawn against sloping and rolling landscape – this bizarre pairing of metal and ground is somehow complementary, the one making the other more apparent, more graspable.

This site-specific work takes a bucolic topography, does something rudely industrial to it and, by doing so, somehow underscores the natural setting. Whether the steel is burrowing or emerging, it resembles an embedded splinter, or a vestige of a disappearing artifact of former occupiers of the land. There is something cruel about the four large-scale knife-blade shapes as they pierce the terrain.

And yet, close up, they are benign presences, familiar and friendly, a quartet of guardians in the ten-acre field that they hold. The dark, static, manmade forms enhance their surroundings, point out their inconsistencies and let us consider our environment more carefully. The contrasts enliven the experience; a reference point for the eye, a few scattered horizon lines to give us our bearings in these foothills.

Ships righted in a tossing sea. It is the unlikeliness of the coupling that works so well, and the simplicity of the interaction that speaks with such complexity. There is something Zenlike about this dynamic of the purposeful human hand and its effect on this rustic, eternal land.

Impact:

- Context/contrast
 - Scale
- Site-specific
 - Line
 - Color
 - Minimal

Art-to-Site Rating: High

View Date: August 2009



Sculpturehead

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