



Art: *Sheep Farm*

Site: Rolling farmland

Place: The Fields Sculpture Park

Location: Ghent, NY

Artist: Dan Devine



dandevineart.blogspot, Rod Bull

As much as this is real – and it is – it is conceptual. In that respect, it messes with your mind since you would, of course, expect to see a herd like this in a setting like this. But since everything else grazing in this former farmland is artwork, this is too – real artwork. Living artwork. Context, again. Out-of-place/in-place. Context changes our perception, as does expectation. The work has a wonderful circular logic and, yet, it disregards all logic. And it cleverly returns this site to what it once had been, only different now – the sheep should be here, the art should not. If you wanted to, you could call it performance art, since it does have a stage presence – and the play is the thing, as we all know. Here, the thing is the thing; that is, the very thing that shows the intense man/nature connection. Remember, these sheep, any sheep, would not be “natural” to this environment. They are destroyers of natural environments, making certain that nothing grows above a 2”-3” height. But in our mind’s eye they represent the natural order, the cycle of life. Here they are art. I like it better this way, challenging our thinking, giving us pause.

Impact:

- Context
- Naturalistic
- Conceptual
- Site-specific
- Land art
- Integrated in setting

Art-to-Site Rating: High

View Date: September 2007



Sculpturehead

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