



Art: *Storm King Wall*

Site: Exterior landscape

Place: Storm King Art Center

Location: Mountainville, NY

Artist: Andy Goldsworthy

Image available at:

www.stormking.org/AndyGoldsworthy.html

This is a dry-stacked stone farm wall, a sheep fold, a boundary line run amok. It snakes its way across the landscape for nearly half a mile, energized by every terrain and obstacle it encounters – and there are many. It shimmies between trees, it skis downhill, it breaks for animals and traffic, it dives into and out of a pond, it climbs hills, it climbs trees, it sashays, retracts and expands, it surrounds and embraces, it is big and strong, it is gentle and shy – all this and more as it interacts with its expansive terrain in a very hands-on, intimate way. So much so that you would think that it just grew this way in some massive Precambrian upheaval in among the mountains that encircle it. A wall, though, typically reflects more of the delineations of man than the turmoil of nature, but here it encapsulates both. Walls are usually indicators of beginning or endpoints, separations between yours and mine, arbitrarily determined distinctions of inside and outside. In this case, not so. More inclusive than exclusive, it seductively entices the viewer to experience both sides rather than just one. Its pattern is more akin to a thread stitching together various sites than a knife cutting them into apportioned slices. One of its best features is that it is so animated and integrated with its setting, it is hard to imagine what the land looked like before its arrival – the same, but not the same.

Impact:

- Interaction
- Scale
- Primal/spiritual
- Integrated in setting
 - Experiential
 - Playful/serious

Art-to-Site Rating: High

View Date: August 2009



Sculpturehead

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