

Andy Goldsworthy was born in Cheshire in 1956
he was brought up in Yorkshire. Goldsworthy
studied at Bradford College of Art in 1974- 75 then
going onto Preston Polytechnic from 1975-78.
Goldsworthy then left college and went on to live
in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cumbria. He then
moved over the border to Langholm,
Dumfriesshire, in 1985 and to Penpont one year
later. When Goldsworthy was a teenager, living on the
outskirts of Leeds, he began to explore the patterns
of nature by arranging building blocks in unexpected
ways.

Throughout Goldsworthy's career, most of his work has been made in the open air, in places such as the Yorkshire Dales, the Lake District and the North of Canada. Goldsworthy's favourite places for creating art are: the North Pole, Japan, and the Australian outback, Missouri and of course where he lives now Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

Andy Goldsworthy uses materials he finds where his art is created.

He uses twigs, leaves, stones, snow and ice, reeds and thorns. Most

of his work demonstrates the short life and

extraordinary sense of

play and of place. Andy describes his work as

“A collaboration with

nature.”

The shapes he uses from raw materials are basic spiral, circle, cone, arch, column, sphere and lines. He puts nature in art and art in nature by including boulders and trees. Sometimes he makes his art play with nature by making it hang from trees.

Some of his designs use light and shadow.

All have an effect around the area where his finished sculptures are placed.

An example of his work is when he gathered coloured leaves and 'thorned' them to a supporting branch creating a subtle rainbow. We realize that leaves are more than green, yellow, red and brown. The different colours, remind us how the sun creates the leaves and the life. Goldsworthy is constantly reminding people to look, recognise and realize the connections between life, nature and the elements.

Andy Goldsworthy has photographs taken of his art that he has included in a book. Without the photographs he has no evidence that he created such art. Andy's quality sculptures show a strong sense of place. For example his work is usually ice arches along a frozen riverbank, twigs wrapped around stones, leaves creating bridges between the trunks of trees, these are all photographed and put in his books. Book publication is the most important part of Goldsworthy's work as it shows the design brief, the product itself and what happened to nature and the art a few months later. Each publication is a work of art in its own right.

Goldsworthy is a wonderful role model for children particularly because of the sensitivity to nature and the environment. He rarely uses living plant materials in his sculptures, and does not intend his art to last as long as the materials themselves. For example ice sculptures are allowed to melt, leaves to fall from their thorn supports and twigs to fall as they would naturally.

Goldsworthy has many important statements here are
some of them:

“Movement, change, light, growth and decay are the
lifeblood of nature when I work with a leaf, rock,
stick, it is not just the material itself, it is an opening
into the processes of life within and around it. When I
leave it, these processes continue.”

“Some of my sculptures last days or seconds. The
importance lies in the making of the piece.”

“Hand to Earth.”