

DEVALS

Biography

“ If I’m going to work with the nature of things, things change, and things die, and things are mortal. Really, it just reflects what life and nature is”

— Andy Goldsworthy

Andy Goldsworthy stands as one of the leading figures in contemporary sculpture. His work belongs to the expanded field of British Land Art while asserting a distinctly personal orientation : a practice grounded in attention, precision of gesture, and an intimate understanding of natural dynamics. For more than four decades, he has developed a body of work in which material, climate, and time actively participate in the emergence of a form already latent within the elements themselves.

Born in 1956 in Cheshire, England, and raised in Yorkshire, Goldsworthy encountered the rhythms of rural life at an early age. From the age of thirteen, he worked on farms, notably at Grove House Farm in Alwoodley, an experience that profoundly shaped his relationship to landscape. Manual labor, the repetition of gestures, close observation of seasonal cycles, and the physical presence of the body in the earth form the foundation of his artistic sensibility. The land became a site of direct, physical, daily knowledge.

Educated at Bradford College of Art and later at Preston Polytechnic (1974–1978), Goldsworthy quickly chose to establish his studio outdoors. He produced his earliest works from a caravan he shared with his brother. Fields, forests, rivers, and shorelines became his laboratories of experimentation. By the late 1970s, he was already creating ephemeral interventions using leaves, branches, mud, snow, and stone gathered directly from the site of action.

Goldsworthy approaches nature with the attentiveness of a naturalist, immersing himself over extended periods within ecosystems; with the care of a gardener, shaping and nurturing elements of the landscape with deliberate precision; and with the awareness of a photographer, fully conscious of the aesthetic and transient qualities of his practice. His works often take shape within a finely calibrated tension between fragility and cohesion. Their disappearance, through melting, dispersal, or submersion by the tide, extends the creative act rather than concluding it.

From the 1980s onward, Goldsworthy expanded the scale of certain projects. Alongside fleeting interventions, he developed enduring stone constructions, frequently created in collaboration with craftsmen and local communities. Arches, sinuous walls, cairns, and domes recall the traditions of dry-stone masonry while revealing a refined understanding of the internal forces and structural logic of matter.



Fig. 1 Andy Goldsworthy in front of *Oak Passage*, 2025 and *Ferns*, 2025 during his retrospective, *Fifty Years*, at the Royal Scottish Academy.

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Time constitutes the essential material of his work. Freeze and thaw, vegetal growth, erosion, and collapse fully participate in the sculptural process. The work achieves its completion through transformation. In this way, Goldsworthy advances a sustained meditation on duration, memory, and humanity's place within natural cycles.

Since the mid-1980s, he has undertaken monumental projects across the world that affirm the possibility of a balanced and poetic relationship between human presence and the environment. Recent permanent site-specific installations by Goldsworthy include *Road Line*, College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine; *Walking Wall*, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri; *Watershed*, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, Massachusetts; *Stone Sea*, Saint Louis Art Museum, Missouri; *Chaumont Cairn*, Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, France; *Path and Rising Stone*, Albright Knox Art Gallery, New York; and *Wood Line*, Presidio of San Francisco, California. Goldsworthy is currently working on *Hanging Stones* in North York Moors, UK.



Fig. 2 Andy Goldsworthy, *Cairn*, 2016
© Andy Goldsworthy & the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire

Other permanent works can be seen at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; de Young Museum, California; Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York; Storm King Art Center, New York; Stanford University, California; and Haute Provence Geological Reserve in Digne-les-Bains, France, among numerous other sites. Major solo exhibitions of Goldsworthy's work have been presented by the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, England; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Spain; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Neuberger Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, California; and Des Moines Art Center, Illinois.

Goldsworthy's contribution to contemporary art has been widely recognized through major international distinctions. He was appointed Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large at Cornell University (2000–2006) and was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 2000. His accolades include the Storm King Award (2015), the South Bank Show Award for Visual Arts (2008), the Hiscox Award for Contemporary Art and Design (1999), and the International Association of Art Critics Award in New York (1997).

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2025

Andy Goldsworthy: Fifty Years, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

2022

Red Flags, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

2018

Drawing a Line, Skissernas Museum, Lund, Sweden

2016

Andy Goldsworthy, Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire - Centre d'Arts et de Nature, Chaumont-sur-Loire, France

2015

Leaning into the Wind, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

2010

New York Dirt Water Light, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

2008

En las entrañas del árbol, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain

Andy Goldsworthy, Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP), Wakefield, United Kingdom

2007

White Walls, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

2006

Refuges, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

2005

The Andy Goldsworthy Project, The National Gallery of Art, Washington, United States

2004

Andy Goldsworthy on the Roof, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, United States

2003

Photographs of his creations from nature, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, Cheltenham, United Kingdom

Mountain and Coast, Autumn into Winter, The University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA), Ann Arbor, United States

Passage, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

2002

Les refuges d'art, Musée-promenade Saint-Benoît, Digne-les-Bains, France

2001

Silent Spring, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

A Line and a Wall, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

1998

Arch, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Montreal, Canada

Cairns, Musée Gassendi, Digne-les-Bains, France

Galerie Lelong, Paris, France

Scottish National Museum of Modern Art, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

1997

Sculpter le paysage, Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland

1996

Wood, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

1995

Mémoires de la Terre, Terre et vies, Musée Gassendi, Digne-les-Bains, France

Black Stones Red Pools, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

1992

Snowball Drawings and The Throws, Castlefield Gallery, Manchester, United Kingdom

1990

Andy Goldsworthy, Centre d'Art le LAIT, Albi, France

Sculpture 1976-1990, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Selected Group Exhibitions

2017

La Pergola, Musée Régional D'Art Contemporain Languedoc-Roussillon, Sérignan, France

La Promenade, une balade dans le dépôt long du Cnap, Musée Régional D'Art Contemporain Languedoc-Roussillon, Sérignan, France

2016

I still believe in miracles, Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

2014

Drawings & Works on Paper, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

2013

Summer Exposure, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

2011

Die Letzte Freiheit - Von den Pionieren der Land-Art der 1960er Jahre bis zur Natur im Cyberspace, Ludwig Museum im Deutschherrenhaus, Koblenz, Germany

Landschaften/Landscapes, Galerie Lelong, Zürich, Switzerland

Pars Pro Toto, Galerie Lelong, Zürich, Switzerland

Watercolour, Tate Britain, London, United Kingdom

Interventions in the Landscape, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

2009

Out Of The City, Zapadoceska galerie, Pilsen, Czech Republic

Out Of The City, East - Slovakian Gallery Kosice, Kosice, Slovakia

2008

A Year in Drawing, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

2007

Peintres de la vie moderne Modern-life painters - Donation - Caisse des Dépôts' photograph collection, Centre Pompidou - Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France

OUT OF THE CITY. Land art, City Gallery of Bratislava / Galéria mesta Bratislavy, Bratislava, Slovakia

Shadow, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

2005

The Transformative Power of Art, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada

Points of View: Landscape and Photography, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

2001

Ephemeres, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France

1998

Etre nature, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France

Internality / Externality: James Casebere, Andy Goldsworthy, Gordon Matta-Clark, Anna Mossman, Vik Muniz, Bernard Voita, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

1995

Time Machine: Ancient Egypt and Contemporary Art, Institute of International Visual Arts - iniva, London, United Kingdom

1991

With Nature, Galerie Lelong, New York, United States

1989

Britannica: Trente Ans de Sculpture, Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen (MuHKA), Antwerp, Belgium

1988

Britannica: Trente Ans de Sculpture, Musée d'art moderne André Malraux (MuMa), Le Havre, France

1981

Summer Show 1, Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom

Installations

2022

Peter's Fold, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield, United Kingdom

2020

Walking Wall, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, United States

Watershed, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, United States

Biennials

2016

Vancouver Biennale - Open Borders / Crossroads Vancouver, Vancouver Sculpture Biennale, Vancouver, Canada

2009

Biennale internationale d'art contemporain de Melle 2009, Biennale internationale d'art contemporain de Melle, Melle, France

1995

46th International Art Exhibition Venice Biennale / Biennale di Venezia, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy

1988

XLIII Esposizione internazionale d'Arte. La Biennale di Venezia. Il luogo degli artisti, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy

Public Collections

McMaster Museum of Art, Ontario, Canada

Musée Gassendi, Digne-les-Bains, France

ALTANA Kulturstiftung im Sinclair-Haus, Bad Homburg, Germany

Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy

Fukuyama Museum of Art, Hiroshima, Japan

Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan

Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts, Tochigi, Japan

Auckland City Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

Centro de Arte Moderna - CAM - Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal

Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain

Arnolfini Collection Trust, Bristol, United Kingdom

Bradford Art Galleries and Museums, Bradford, United Kingdom

Carlisle Museum and Art Gallery, Carlisle, United Kingdom

Cass Sculpture Foundation, Goodwood, United Kingdom

Common Ground, London, United Kingdom

Gallery North - Northumbria University Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

Government Art Collection, London, United Kingdom

Jupiter Artland, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds, United Kingdom

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesbrough, United Kingdom

National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton, United Kingdom

Tate, London, United Kingdom

The Arts Council of Great Britain, London, United Kingdom

The British Council, London, United Kingdom

Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, United Kingdom

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield, United Kingdom
Anchorage Museum of History and Art, Anchorage, United States
Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, United States
Aspen Institute, Aspen, United States
Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Palo Alto, United States
Chazen Museum of Art, Madison, United States
De Young Museum, San Francisco, United States
deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, United States
Denver Art Museum, Denver, United States
Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, United States
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, United States
Hess Art Museum, Napa, United States
Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Stanford, United States
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, United States
Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego - MCASD La Jolla, La Jolla, United States
National Gallery of Art, Washington, United States
Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, United States
Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Oklahoma City, United States
Runnymede Sculpture Farm, Woodside, United States
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), San Francisco, United States
San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, United States
Storm King Art Center, Mountainville, United States
Sweet Briar College Art Gallery, Sweet Briar, United States
Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, United States
Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, United States