



Royal  
Botanic Garden  
Edinburgh

# Andy Goldsworthy

## Be inspired by the natural art of Andy Goldsworthy

Andy Goldsworthy is a British sculptor, photographer and environmentalist whose work ‘...looks into the heart of nature’. He creates land art using natural objects such as pebbles, twigs, branches, pinecones, mud, leaves and petals. The backgrounds of the environment, such as grass, soil, snow or sky, become his page. He is inspired by the ever-changing quality of nature and the seasons and takes a photo of his work at its height when it is ‘most alive’ before it decays or gets washed or blown away. This is called ‘ephemeral art’.

In his work he likes to:

- Grade colours in shapes and patterns – lines – circles – spirals – balls – holes.
- Enhance what is already in nature, for example he lines a branch with red leaves or outlines a hole with pebbles.
- Work on a tiny scale or large scale.
- Work with natural tools, eg stones and sticks.

## Do some research

Look at examples of his work and discuss what you notice and like about each.

[Artnet Andy Goldsworthy artist page](#)

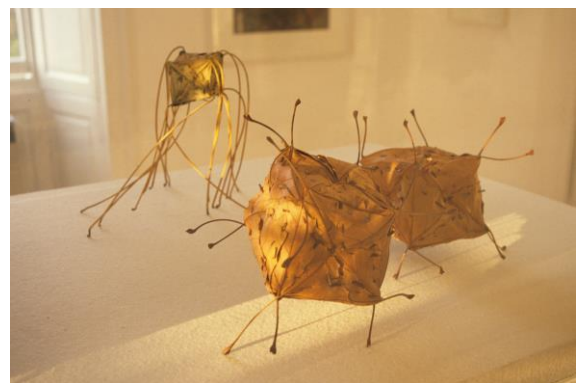
Watch the video to visit Andy Goldsworthy’s studio and hear him talk about his work.

[TateShots Andy Goldsworthy studio and conversation](#)



## Create your own land art

- Find a place outdoors that you like where there is space to create, and fallen natural materials to pick up and use. This will be your outdoor gallery. Remember that the land itself is part of the art.
- Work in groups/pairs/by yourself to create a piece of art with your gathered materials. Look for patterns, colours, shapes, and pleasing ways of placing things.
- You can try some techniques used by Andy like pinning leaves together using pine needles or twigs, putting leaves onto sticks, or ripping fallen leaves into shapes.
- Explore the materials using your senses.
- Give your art a name and take photos as a record – choose how to capture the ‘aliveness’ of your installation. If you want to, and your parents/carers/teachers are happy, you can share this with us on social media using #learnwithmarley.
- If you’re with others, celebrate by visiting each piece of art in the gallery.
- If you are in a wild space, you could leave your installations and revisit to see how they change over time. If you make them in a garden, park or on grass you can help the people that look after the area by putting everything back where you found it and by leaving no trace.
- Don’t forget to wash your hands after being in nature.





## Find Andy's sculptures at RBGE

At the Botanic we are lucky to have some of his more permanent sculptures in the Garden.

Read about our outdoor art collection here: [Outdoor sculptures at RBGE](#)

If you come to the Garden on a visit, see if you can find them.



Cone



Slate, Hole, Wall

## Final words - inspiring quotes

- 'I stop at a place or pick up a material because I feel that there is something to be discovered. Here is where I can learn.'
- 'For me, looking, touching, material, place and form are all inseparable from the resulting work.'
- '...I cannot go for long before I need to work with the earth direct – hand to earth.'

If you want to find out more about plants and nature and what we can do to look after our environment visit: [Marley's School of Garden Magic](#)