

Nature's Art

Land art

Land art, or Earth art, is art that is made within the landscape. Land art is usually captured using photography because it is temporary and often made on a large scale.



Spiral Jetty by Robert Smithson, 1970

Materials in land art

Land art can be made from many materials. Some artists sculpt the land into pieces called earthworks. Other artists use natural materials, such as twigs and rocks, to make sculptures within the landscape. Land art may be temporary, such as *A Line Made by Walking*. Richard Long made this line in the grass by repeatedly walking backwards and forwards.



A Line Made by Walking
by Richard Long, 1967

Installations

Some land artists bring materials inside from the outdoor environment to create installations in galleries and exhibition spaces.



Banquet by Rebecca Louise Law, 2019



Cold Dark Matter: An Exploded View by Cornelia Parker, 1991

Relief sculpture

A relief sculpture projects from a flat surface. A high relief sculpture clearly projects out of the surface and looks like it is freestanding. A low relief, or bas-relief, sculpture does not project far out of the surface and is visibly attached to the background.



Earth Sign by Wilhelm Holderied, 1995

Glossary

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| earthwork | Art that has been made by shaping the land or making shapes in the land using natural materials. |
| freestanding | A structure that stands alone and is not attached to something else. |
| installation | A piece of 3-D art that is designed to change a space. |
| relief sculpture | A 3-D sculpture that projects from a flat background or floor. |
| temporary | Something that only lasts for a limited time. |