

# Organic Artifacts of Earth Art

Mr. Testa



# *L3: Find Trash & Plant Art*

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*Terra* (Roman Mythology) – The Roman earth Goddess.

# Background Information

Land Art or earth art is art that is made directly in the landscape, sculpting the land itself into earthworks or making structures in the landscape using natural materials such as rocks or twigs (Tate).

Artworks are documented using photographs and maps which the artist could exhibit in a gallery.

Land artists also made land art in the gallery by bringing in material from the landscape and using it to create indoor installations.

# Artist: Andy Goldsworthy

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Andy Goldsworthy is a British artist known for his site-specific installations involving natural materials and the passage of time. He works as both sculptor and photographer.

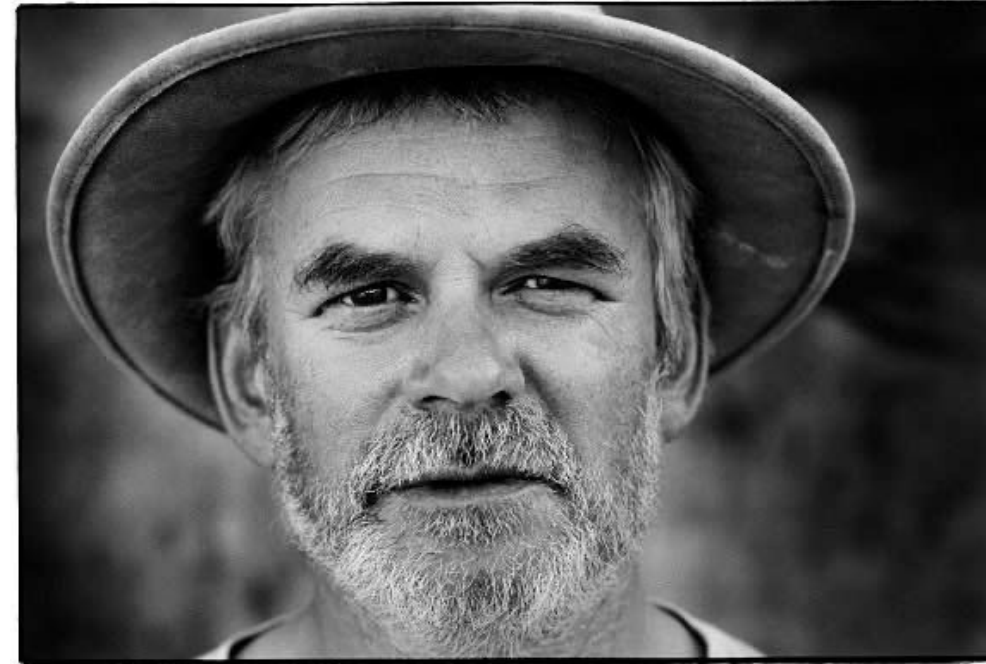
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Goldsworthy crafts his installations out of rocks, ice, leaves, or branches, cognizant that the landscape will change, then carefully documents the ephemeral collaborations with nature through photography.

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“It's just about life and the need to understand that a lot of things in life do not last.”

Andy Goldsworthy, Photograph



Source: National Gallery of Art.

Creative  
Investigation

Storm King Park  
Autumn Works



# Goldsworthy's work



Source: Artnet.com

**Springtime, 2012**

**Chromogenic print, 15.7 x 15.7 in.**



Source: Artnet.com

***Untitled (Stacked Snow Cone), 1989***

**C-print, 39.4 x 29.5 in.**

# Artist: Nancy Holt

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Nancy Holt (April 5, 1938 – February 8, 2014) was a member of the earth, land, and conceptual art movements.

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Holt recalibrated the limits of art. She expanded the places where art could be found and embraced the new media of her time. (Holt Smithsonian Foundation).

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*“As soon as I got to the desert, I connected with the place. Before that, the only other place that I had felt in touch with in the same way was the Pine Barrens in southern New Jersey, which only begins to approach that kind of Western spaciousness.”*



# Big Ideas

Nancy Holt, Sun  
Tunnels





# Holt's Work



Source: [holtsmithsonfoundation.org](http://holtsmithsonfoundation.org)

**Along the Niagara River, 1974**

Artpark, Lewiston, NY, USA

Concrete, earth, water, (28 x 62 ft)



Source: [holtsmithsonfoundation.org](http://holtsmithsonfoundation.org)

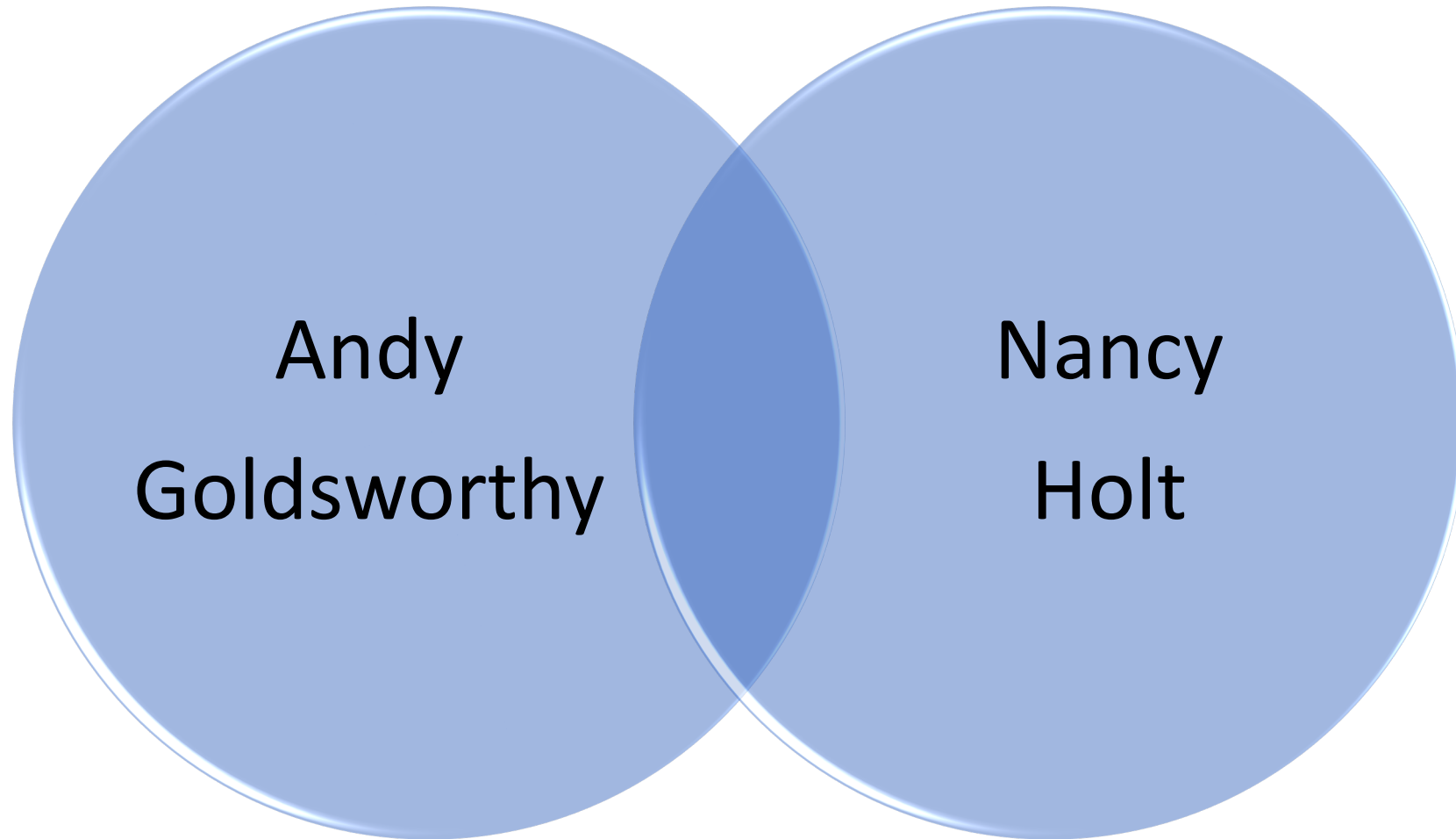
***Dark Star Park, 1979-84***

Rosslyn, Arlington County, Virginia

Gunited concrete, stone masonry, asphalt, steel, water, earth, gravel, grass, plants, willow oak

Overall area: Two-thirds of an acre

# Compare & Contrast



**Art Walk:**

Tune-in to Nature.

# Artist: Maya Lin

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Born in 1959 in Athens, Ohio, Maya Lin catapulted into the public eye when, as a senior at Yale University, she submitted the winning design in a national competition for a Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be built in Washington, DC.

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“As the child of immigrants, you have that sense of ‘Where are you? Where’s home?’ And trying to make a home.” (Lin).

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She draws inspiration for her sculpture and architecture from culturally diverse sources, including Japanese gardens, Hopewell Indian earthen mounds, and works by American earthworks artists of the 1960s and 1970s (Art21).

Maya Lin, Photograph



Source: Art21.com

# *Storm King Wavefield*



Source: Storm King Art Center

**Maya Lin, 2007-08**

Earth and Grass, 240,000 Sq. Ft (11 Acre Site)

***Storm King Wavefield*** is the largest and last in a series of three of Lin's wavefields, The other two are in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Miami, Florida.

Viewed from above, the undulating swells of earth forming *Storm King Wavefield* appear to naturally rise from and roll along the grassy terrain.

NY Times at Storm King

Maya Lin's  
"Wave Field"



## **Creative Investigation:**

Using Cardboard and other recycled materials create a “recycled landscape”, puzzle, or map of world.

# Artist: Beverly Buchanan

Beverly Buchanan (1940–2015) explored the relationship between memory—personal, historical, and geographical and place (Brooklyn Museum).

“... a lot of my pieces have the word 'ruins' in their titles because I think that tells you this object has been through a lot and survived—that's the idea behind the sculptures...it's like, 'Here I am; I'm still here!' ” (Buchanan, 1982).

Engaging with the most vanguard movements of her time, including Land Art, Post-Minimalism, and feminism, she linked political and social consciousness to the formal aesthetics of abstraction.

Beverly Buchanan, Postcard, 1977



Source: Brooklyn Museum



# Buchanan's Work



Source: brooklynmuseum.org

***Untitled (Slab Works 1)***, 1978-80.

Black and white photograph of cast concrete sculptures with acrylic paint, 8 ½ x 11 in.



Source: brooklynmuseum.org

***Wall Fragments***, 1978.

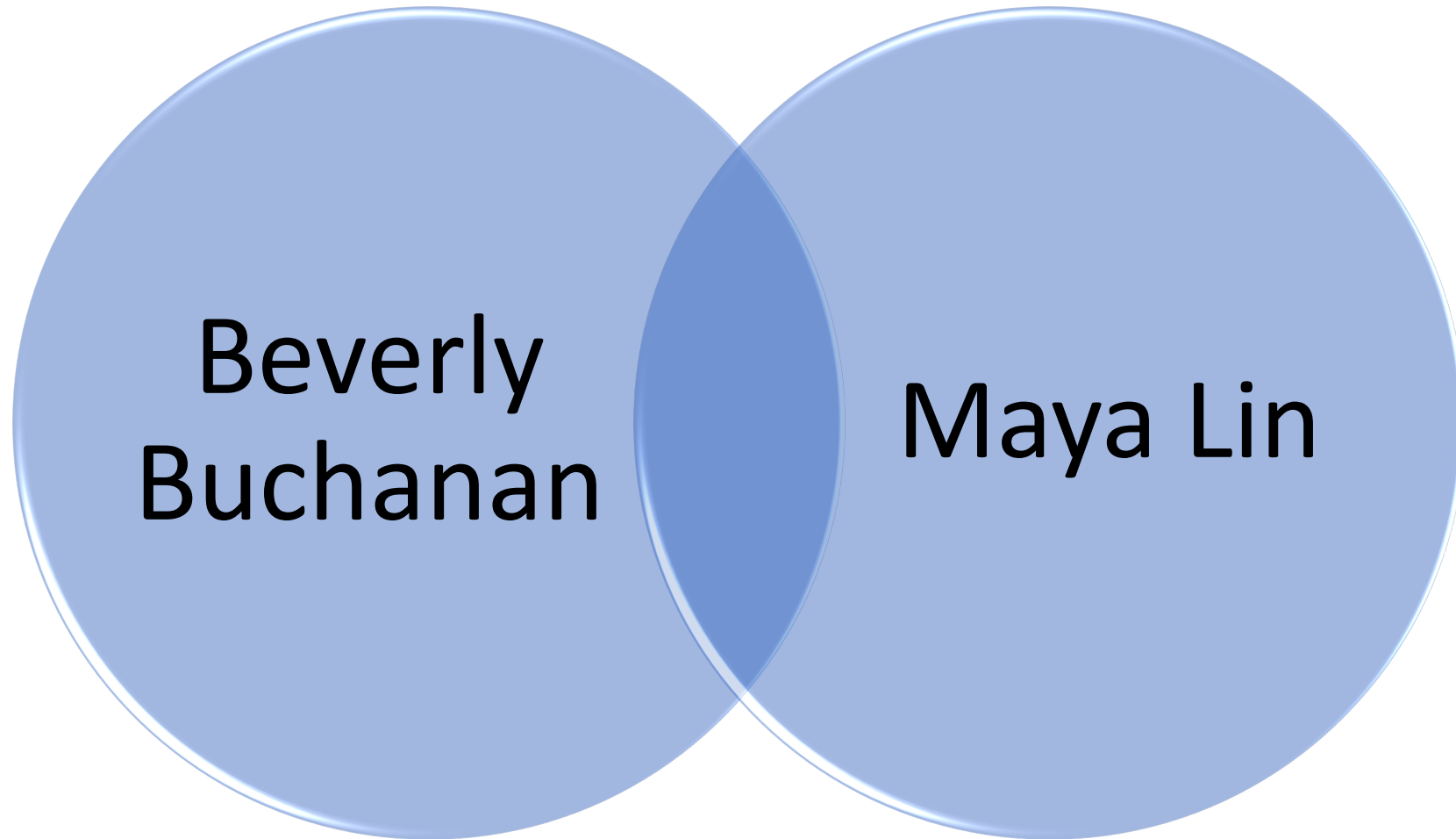
Three-part cast concrete sculpture with acrylic paint

The Columbus Museum Staff Pick, 2020

Beverly  
Buchanan's  
"Sculpture House"



# Compare & Contrast



Beverly  
Buchanan

Maya Lin

# **Artists:**

Andy Goldsworthy

Nancy Holt

Maya Lin

Beverly Buchanan

# Final Project: *Mother Earth*

## Create, Photograph & Reflect

1. Create a work of art using found naturalistic materials such as twigs, sticks, leaves, pinecones, acorns, flowers, moss, grass, etc. (No Cattails / Typha).
2. Photograph your work, ***before, during*** and ***after*** the process of artmaking.
3. Write a short Artist Statement summarizing the work, and your process.

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