

Nature as a Material

Art around Us



ROTORUA
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Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa
ART | CULTURE | HERITAGE

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Artists have been inspired by our natural world for centuries. From cave art to landscape painting, the surrounding environment has served as an inspiration.

Artists are not only inspired by nature but they use materials found in nature to create their artworks from.

There is a New Zealand artist creating big artworks in the outdoors and his name is Chris Booth. Chris comes from Kerikeri. In 2005 he created a large artwork for the entry to the Hamilton Botanical Gardens called *Nga Uri Hinetuparimaunga*.

Why do you think this sculpture was chosen for the entrance of the Hamilton Gardens?

What other materials found in nature could he use?



Nga Uri o Hinetuparimaunga, 2005, by Chris Booth

<http://www.chrisbooth.co.nz/works/nga-uri-o-hinetuparimaunga-2005/>

Booth wanted to celebrate the entry to the botanical gardens. He used stone which formed much of the land of Waikato area. Therefore the stone has got a special connection to the whenua (land). As a part of the entry he decided to create a woven pebble kākahu (cloak). The cloak is placed over five columns.

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Perhaps one of the most well-known artist creating land art is **Andy Goldsworthy**. This American based photographer works on his artwork using natural materials he can find in a particular locations like stones, branches, leaves, ice. **Can you think of other materials found in nature he could use?**



Andy Goldsworthy

Goldsworthy uses basic natural materials to create works in the natural setting to celebrate our relationship with nature. He knows his artwork will not last forever in the environment, so he carefully takes photographs of all his work with a camera.

Activity:

When you go outside for a walk, play in your garden or in the school grounds explore the materials like rocks, leaves branches around you.

Think about the shape of your artwork, collect and select as many natural materials as you need.

Create your own piece of outdoor art for people walking pass to enjoy.

Take a picture of your land art and send it to us. We would love to see all your creations. Email us your images to MuseumEd@rotorualc.nz

