

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ***The Goldsworthy Perspective***



### **Background Information**

In this experiment, you will be engaged in a guided discussion about what is defined as art especially regarding earth art and temporary art. Andy Goldsworthy is a British artist who works with nature to make his artwork. Goldsworthy's artwork reinforces the relationship of human existence within nature. His work shows us that we as humans have some ability of controlling nature, but in the end, nature controls us. His transient sculptures contradict the permanence of art in its historical pretense. The materials used in his work are found in nature such as leaves, grasses, stones, wood, sand, clay, ice, and snow. He has no preconceived ideas about his work. He uses only what nature gives him in the specific season and area he is in. The resultant is *Impermanent Earth Art*, because of its transient period of existence.

### **MATERIALS**

- Document Camera
- Personal Computer
- Interactive White Board/Projector
- Food dye (3 or 4 colors)
- Large Clear Bowl

### **PROCEDURE**

**Pre-Lab Questions**      *Look at image above and answer the following questions.*

1. Would the photograph of the swirls be considered art? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What elements and principles of art do you see in the photograph? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Now pick an example of Goldsworthy's art and answer the following questions:**

1. Does art have to be beautiful? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is this photograph beautiful? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What elements and principles of art can be seen in this work? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Which elements and principles have been emphasized? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. How would you feel about making something beautiful that would eventually disappear? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Why would an artist make a sculpture that would eventually melt away?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Have you ever seen, owned, or made anything beautiful that faded away?

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8. What changes do you predict will happen over time? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Does the artist control the changes? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Is the natural occurring changes part of the artwork? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Since the original art disappears, is the photograph of the piece the actual artwork?

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**Activity 1 *Introduce the Idea of Impermanent Art***

1. Connect a document camera to a computer and an interactive white board.
2. Focus the document camera into the side of the bowl of water so you may readily see changes in the water on the computer screen, as the food coloring is added.
3. Fill a translucent bowl about 2/3 full of water and have the food dye ready for putting drops into the water.
4. Release a drop of food dye into the bowl, allowing it to make swirls in the water.
5. As the food coloring diffuses throughout the water, ask students questions such as:
  - Have you ever wanted to stop time?

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- Would you like to capture the swirls at a certain point before they disappear completely?
  - Have you ever seen a perfect moment in a cloud, or rain or other natural phenomena and wish you could save it as a picture?
6. Capture a picture with the document camera of the swirling motion. You could also record a video of the swirling dye and play it back again to find the most interesting point in the swirling.

**Activity 2**                      ***Try It Yourself!***

1. Go outside to find natural materials to make your own impermanent sculpture.
2. Create your impermanent sculpture.
3. Capture the changes occurring in the impermanent sculpture using the document camera set on time lapse photography.
4. Be sure to set the time short enough to capture significant changes in your impermanent art work.
5. As the impermanent sculpture changes, you will have a recording.
6. Share your video with the class.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Now answer questions 1-11 that you answered in Activity 1 for your art piece.
2. Are there significant changes in your answers from Activity 1?

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