6: Andy Goldsworthy

Deemed a sculptor, photographer, and environmentalist, British artist Andy Goldsworthy spent his childhood years working with the natural landscape on his family farm. These early years were extremely monumental and valuable, for he learned how people who work on the land view the land and relate to it. Goldsworthy studied Fine Arts at Preston University in Lancaster, England where he often spent the majority of his time outside— splashing in the mud, moving around and then photographing rocks, observing the water as the weather changed, and walking barefoot. He was connecting himself to the landscape in ways other artists have never done; his academic studies led to the production of many early works which can be deemed as “formless” works — works that defined themselves in shape based on natural materials, and works that were not necessarily permanent creations but rather temporary. Goldsworthy often experimented with natural elements such as leaves, sticks, snow, and large stones. After studying the structure of these elements — including color, size, texture, weight, and durability — he would mold and shape them into ingenious creations and eye appealing sculptures.

Examine It:
Various works and sculptures
http://www.artnet.com/artists/andy-goldsworthy/

Re-create It:
Materials
- nature/ natural objects and elements

Procedure

1. This task and activity is quite simple… inspired by Goldsworthy’s connection and love for working outdoors with nature, try and create your own natural sculpture.
2. Use leaves, sticks, rocks, large stones, acorns, pinecones, grass, dirt, and whatever else you can find in your backyard! The end result doesn’t have to be permanent; in fact leave your creation outside in one location and observe how it changes over time — what happens after it rains; what happens when the sun hits it; what happens when the wind blows?