

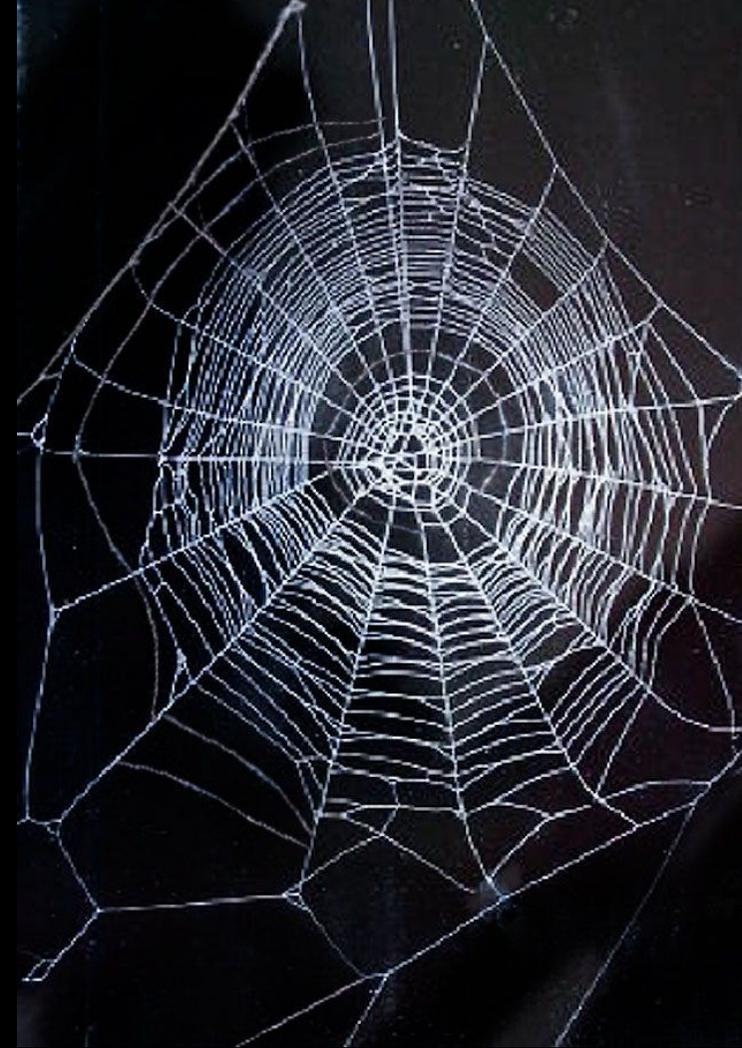
Ephemeral Land Art

Created by Eve Williams Creative Learning & Public Programs Officer
Devonport Regional Gallery

Ephemeral: uh·feh·muh·ruhl

Adjective.

Existing only briefly.



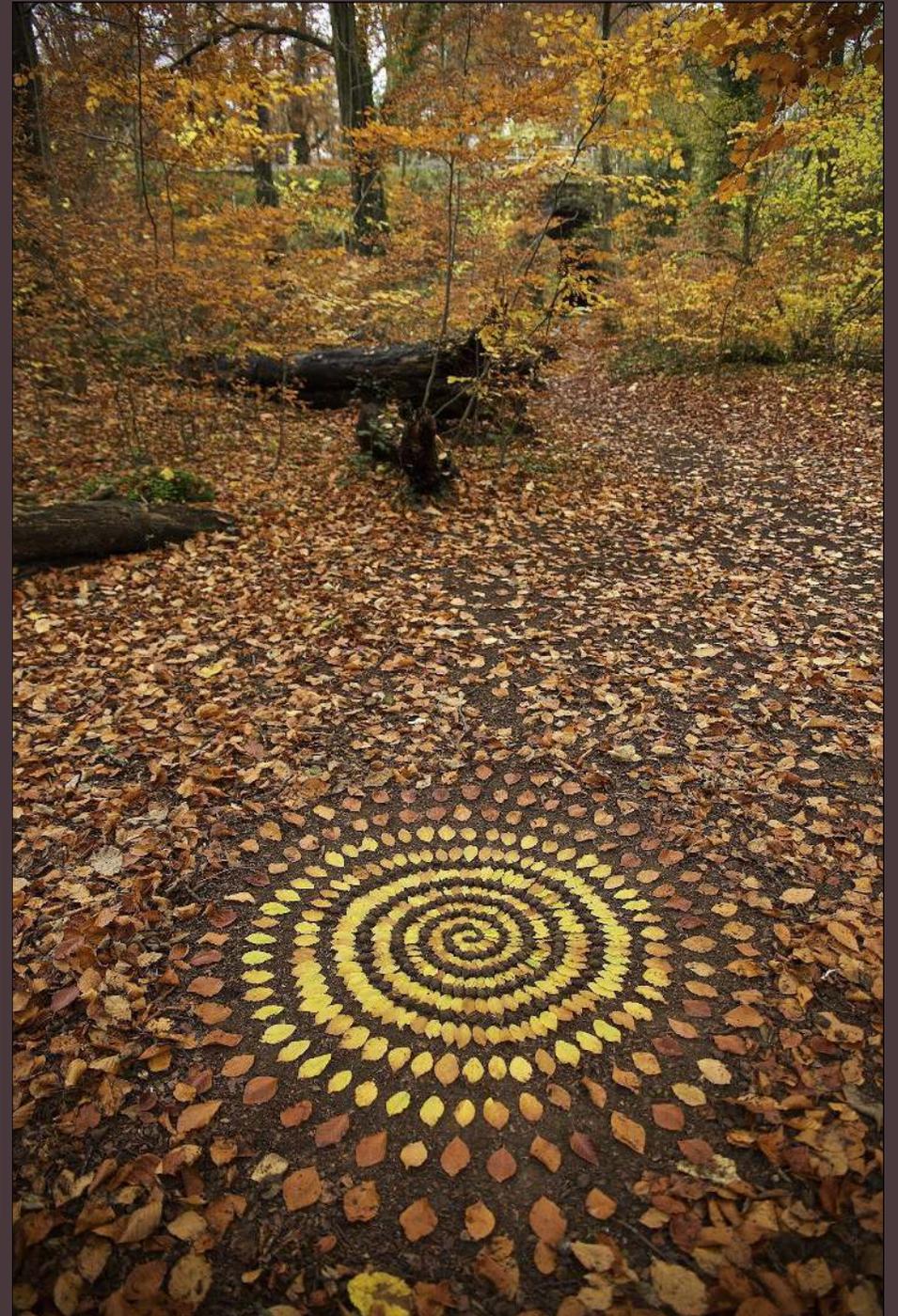
What is it?

Pioneered by British photographer, environmentalist and artist Andy Goldsworthy, ephemeral art is art that is made as a once off and is not built to last but rather to fade away naturally over time, perhaps as a gesture of the ephemeral nature of life itself.



Andy Goldsworthy

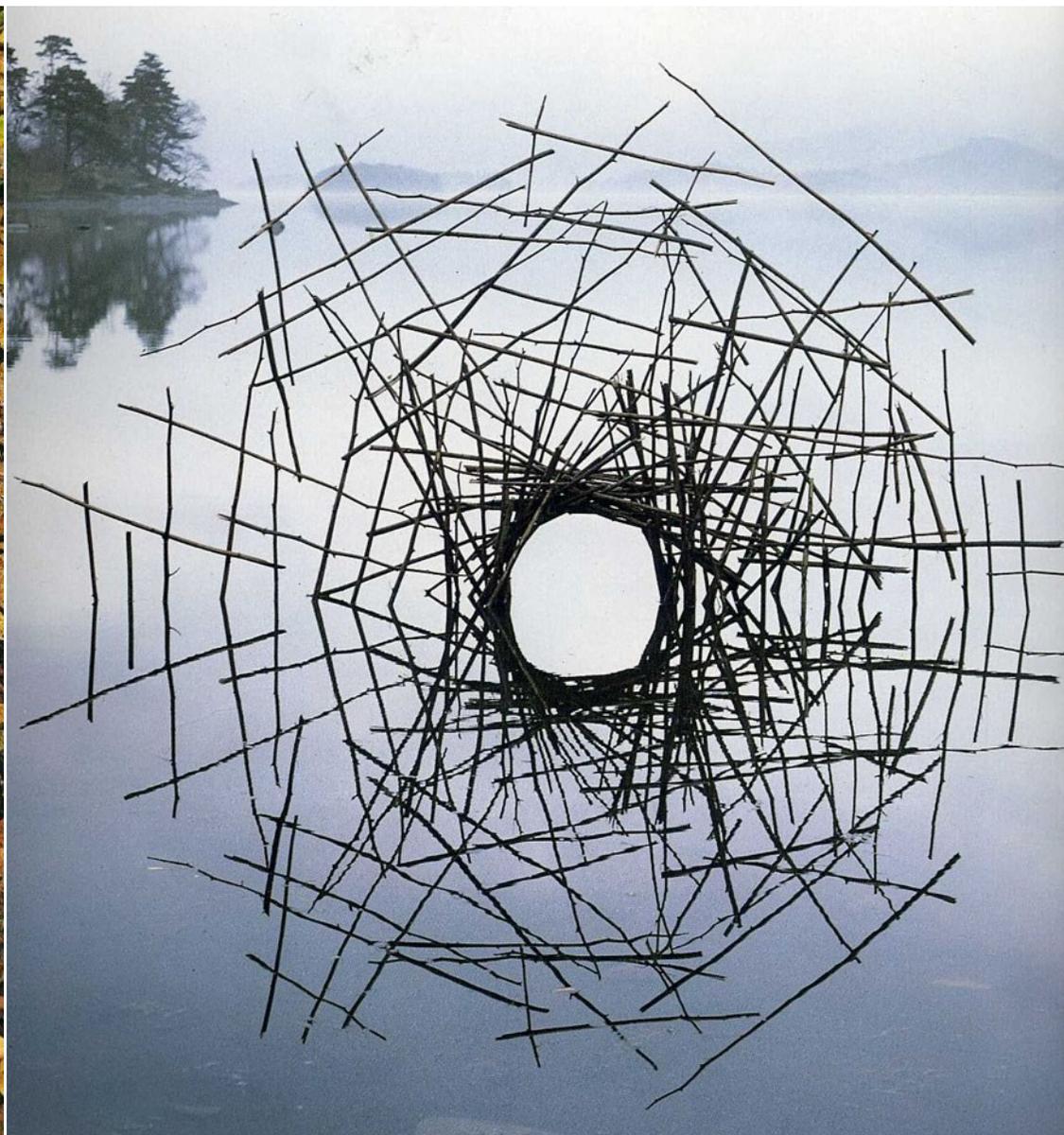
Ephemeral art does not require a list of materials to make or create it, rather, it uses natural materials that can be found in the landscape. Sometimes it is the arrangement of the found materials that brings attention to their existence and a new perspective to the landscape.





Often with ephemeral art the artist will go out into the landscape and construct the work without anyone knowing. The work once completed is simply left to fade away or be discovered by other passers by. Once it has disappeared the only evidence of it ever having existed is through photographic documentation of the work.

The ephemeral art work of Andy Goldsworthy...

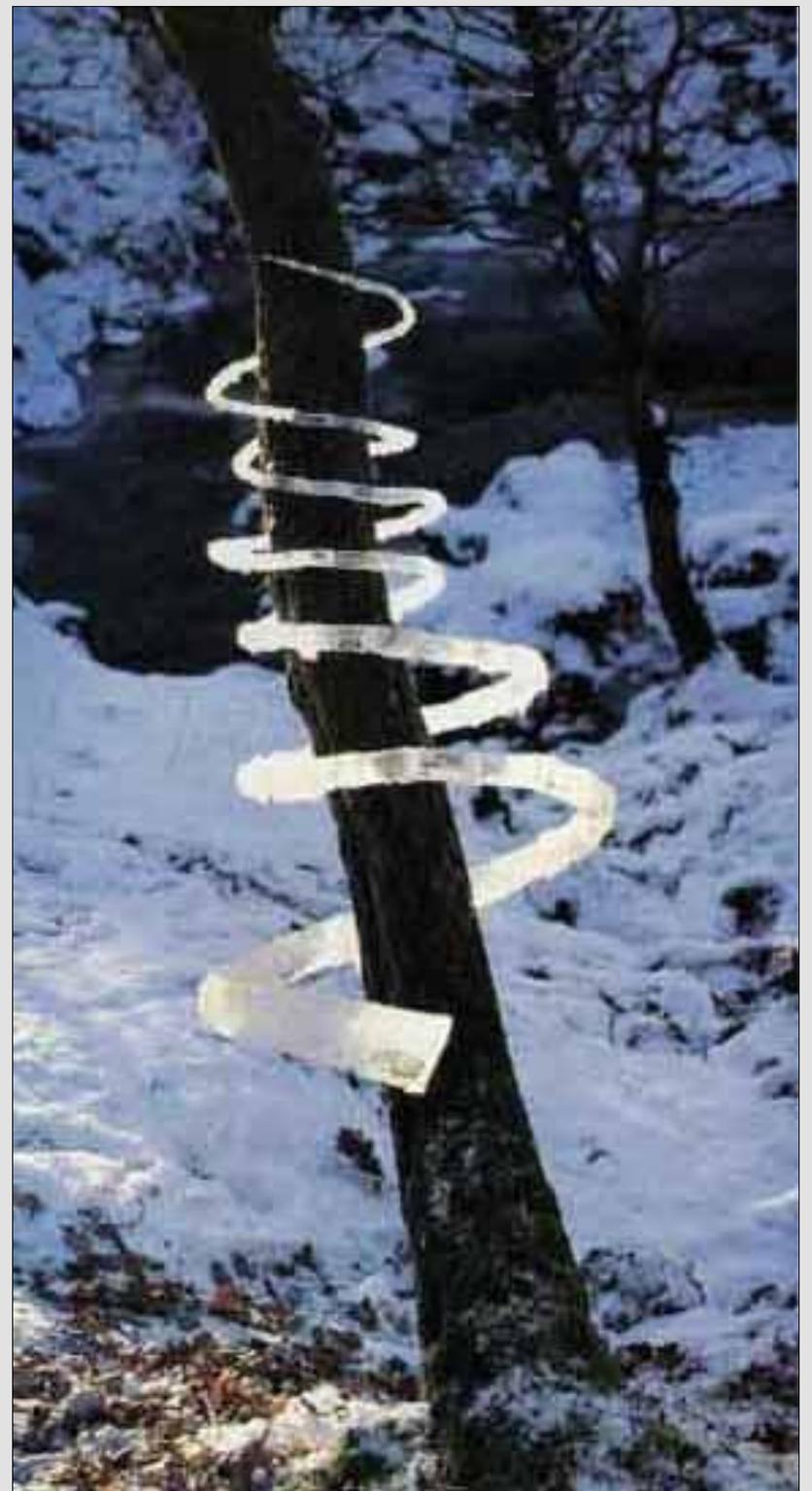




Works by Andy Goldsworthy



Watch a video on Andy Goldsworthy's work and process [here](#) (6.5 minutes). Notice how he uses what is readily available in the landscape he is working in.



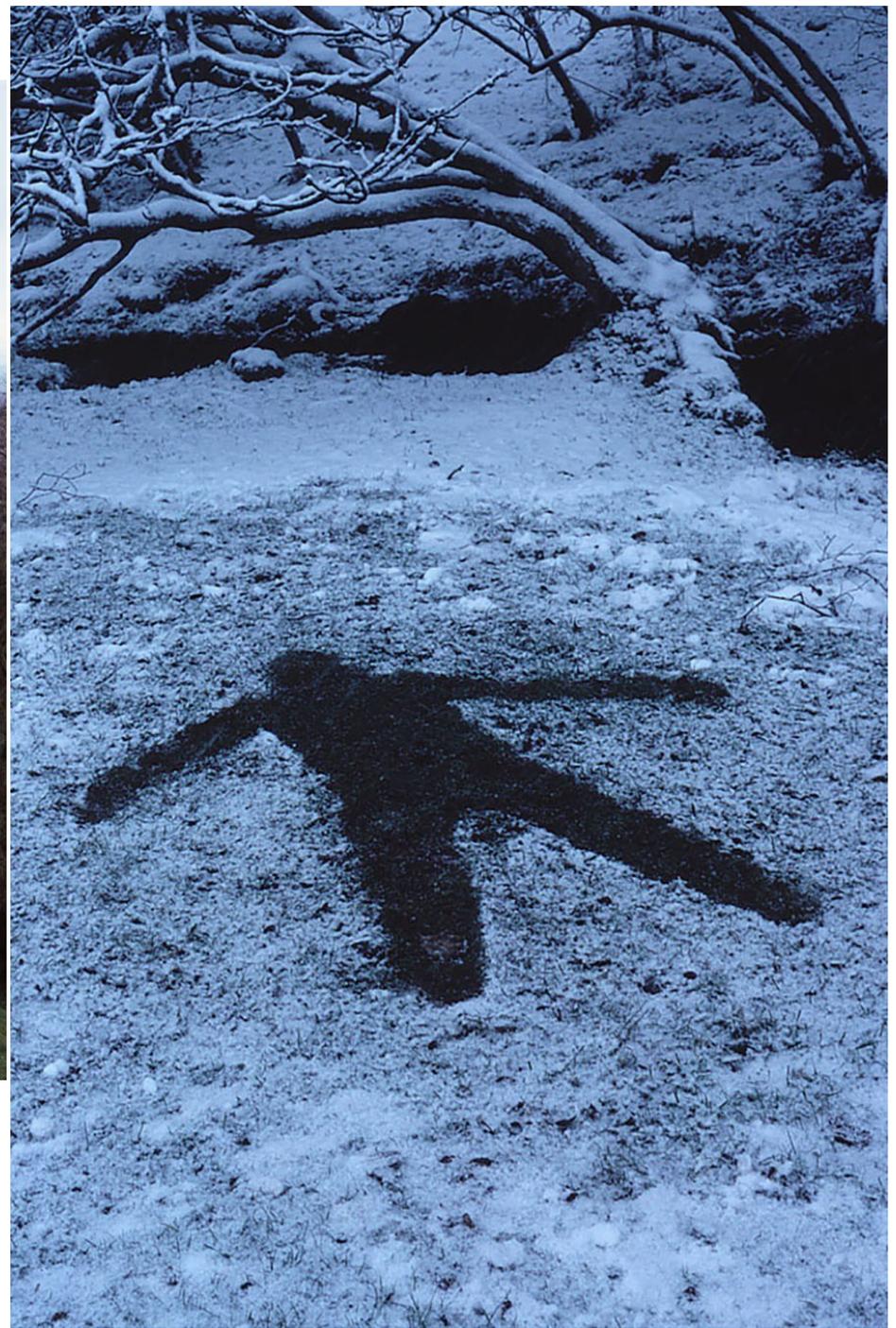


Created by
Andy
Goldsworthy



Watch a trailer for *“Leaning Into the Wind”* an Andy Goldsworthy documentary film [here](#) (2 minutes).

If you are interested in watching the full documentary of *“Rivers and Tides”* (Andy Goldsworthy documentary pre *“Leaning Into the Wind”*) you can see it [here](#) (32 minutes).



Andy Goldsworthy creates human figure/ self portrait shadow art by laying down on the ground while it is snowing or raining to create rain shadows.

The ephemeral land art of Richard Shilling...



Watch the artist at work [here](#)



Created by Richard Shilling





TASK

Create a piece of ephemeral land art taking inspiration from artists such as Andy Goldsworthy and Richard Shilling.

Document your work through photography and send it in to share.

You will need:

- Decent weather (optional)
- Your imagination
- Patience
- Access to a landscape outside. Either your backyard or that of a friend or families, beach, forest etc.
- Sketchbook/ paper and pencil (optional)
- Scissors or a knife can help
- String, thread (optional)



Some building/ construction/ methods you might like to use...

Daisy chain link



wrapping



Moulding



Weaving



Colour and Tone



Plaiting and braiding



Stacking/ balancing



Floating



Mandalas

A mandala is a circular shape made up of geometric shapes and patterns. Mandalas hold symbolic importance in Buddhist and Hindu religions externally as a visual representation of the universe, and internally as instruments of meditation and symbols of prayer.



Tibetan monk creating an intricate sand mandala.

Ephemeral Land Art mandalas.





You might like to create a colourful spring flower mandala as pictured.



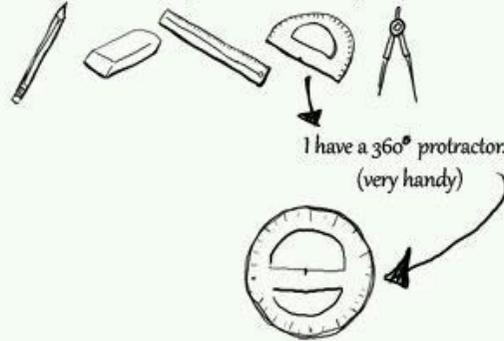
For step by step instructions on how to draw a mandala, there is a helpful website [here](#).

Tip: *You don't need to use all of these tools when making a land art mandala, but it's a good idea to get an understanding of how they are constructed before setting out to make one.*

MAPPING OUT MANDALAS

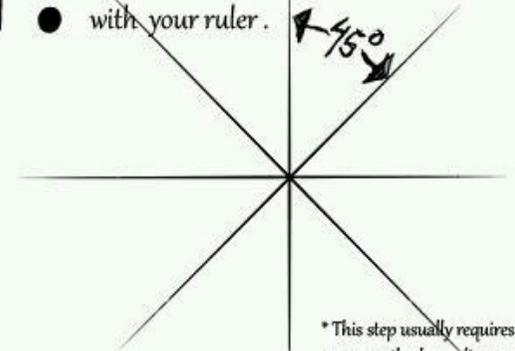
First thing you need are the right tools for the job:

Pencil, eraser, ruler, protractor, and compass.



1.

Choose a center point, use your protractor to map out evenly spaced points around it. *
Connect these points through the center with your ruler.



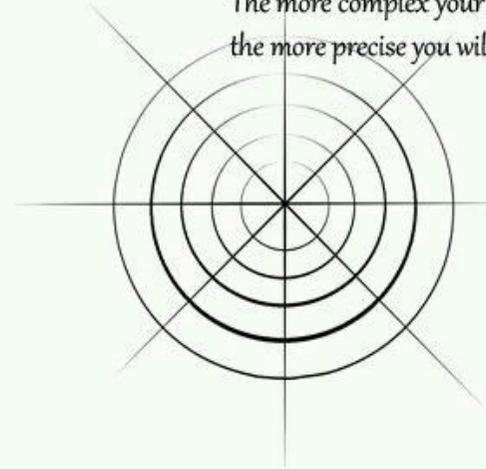
* This step usually requires some math, depending on how many repetitions you want. I kept it simple with 8 sections, meaning a line every 45 degrees.

$$\begin{array}{r} 45 \\ 8 \overline{) 360} \end{array}$$

2.

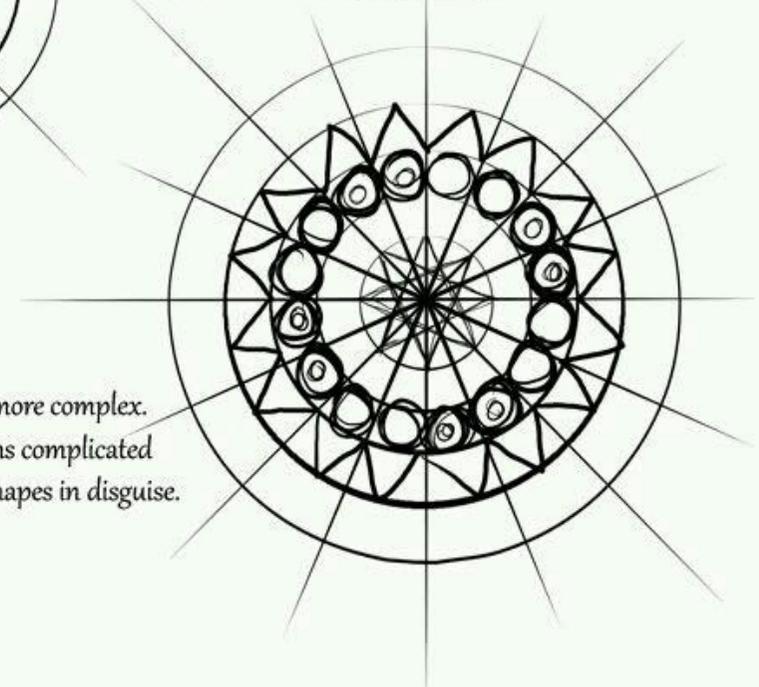
Use your compass to map circles emanating from the center. This creates a radial grid.

Make your grid as complex as desired. The more complex your grid is—the more precise you will be.



3.

Experiment by filling the grid with repeating shapes: spirals, triangles, ziz-zags, etc. Pencil first, then ink, paint, or what have you.



Start with basic shapes and get more complex. Remember: any figure that seems complicated is, in truth, just a lot of simple shapes in disguise.

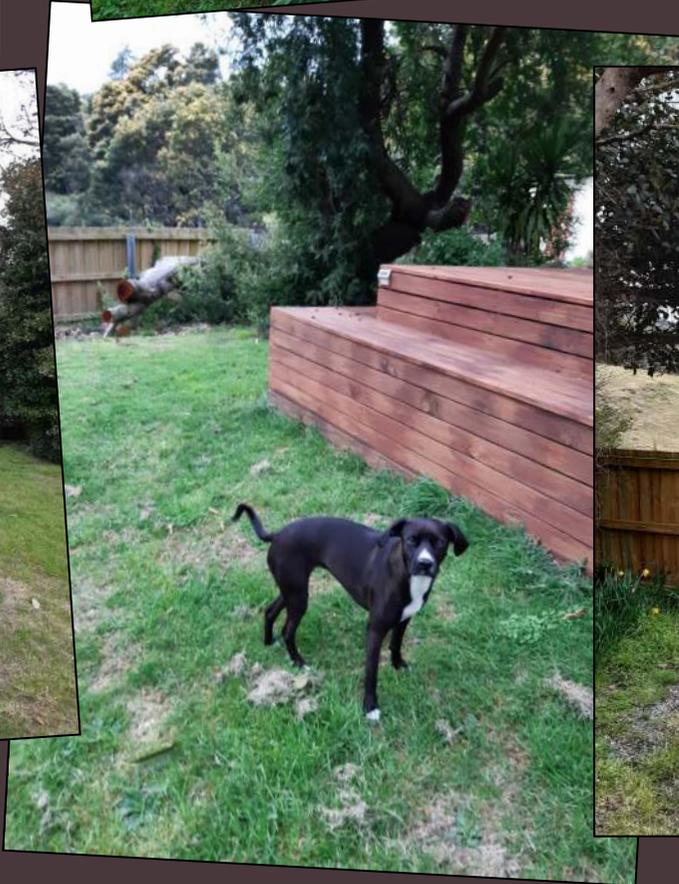


Spring is here!
it's time to head outside
INTO THE LANDSCAPE
to create some ephemeral art

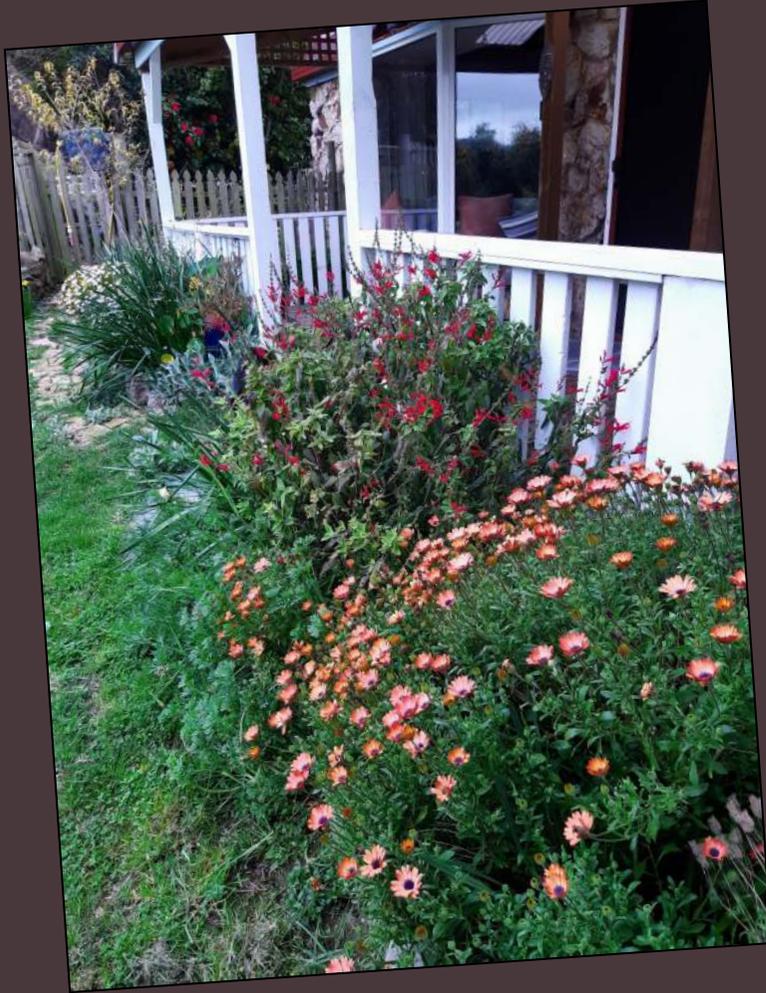


Decide on your landscape location. Go for a walk or head out into your back yard.

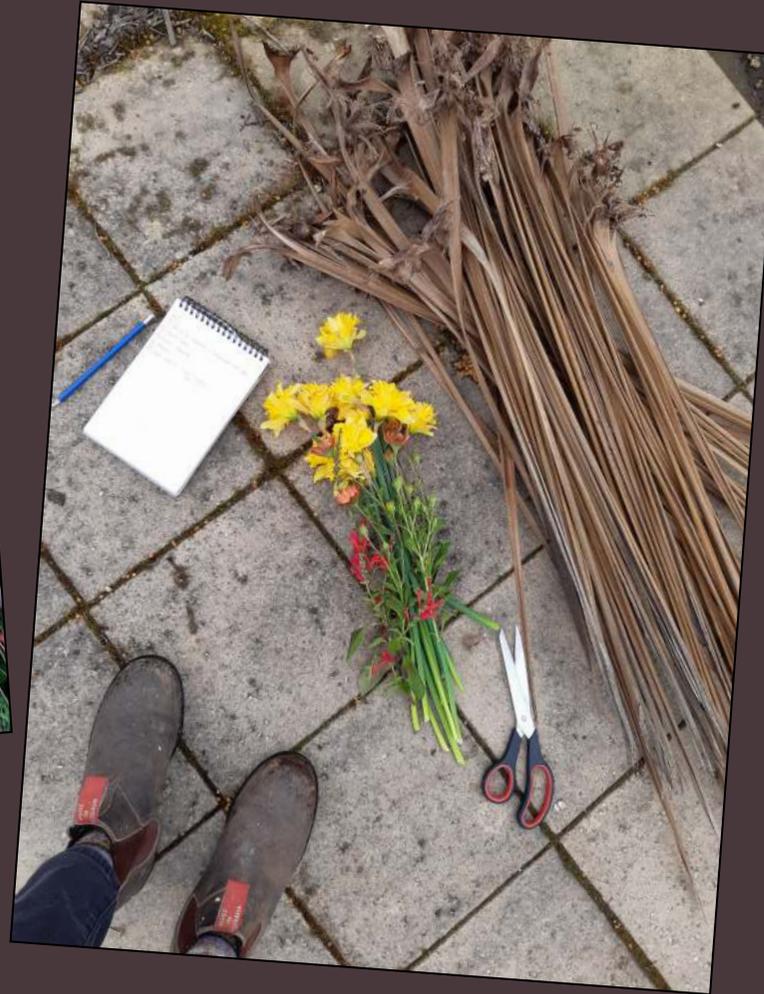
Look around at the landscape at all the natural materials that are there that you could use to create something with.



Your first visit to the site you might just want to take some photographs of what is around and get a good idea of the space. You could take your sketch book and do some sketching of some ideas that you might have.



Remember: *Ephemeral art is not made to last, it should not spoil or take away from the natural environment, only be moved or manipulated in such a way that it will soon disappear back into the landscape by forces of nature.*



Once you have a clear idea of what you would like to build, start collecting your materials and constructing your ephemeral land art. ***Don't forget to take pictures as you go!*** Depending on how fragile your work is, the weather may destroy it before you are completed! If so, don't be upset, just remember this is the nature of ephemeral art!













UPCOMING EXHIBITION!

Keep your work safe!

To be part of the upcoming HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS exhibition, please register your interest by emailing

artgallery@devonport.tas.gov.au

Devonport
Regional Gallery

Presents

HOME IS WHERE THE 'ART IS

Exhibition 30th January- 14th March 2021

An exhibition of works created in homes during the COVID 19 restrictions as part of the Devonport Regional Gallery's on-line art programs, 'Home is Where the 'Art is'.

Open to anyone who has or who would like to create works as part of the on-line art workshops available at: paranapleartscentre.com.au/devonport-regional-gallery/public-programs-creative-learning/

Please register your interest in participating by email:
artgallery@devonport.tas.gov.au



SHARE YOUR CREATIONS!

**Send in pictures of your Ephemeral
Land Art creations to:**

artgallery@devonport.tas.gov.au