



a natural state

Artist: Clemson Nature-based Sculpture

Video: Touch the Earth, Part B: History

[Maya Angelou, Narrator] Nature-based sculpture enjoys an international following but is virtually unheard of in the United States. This leads many Americans to assume that it is a new art. Actually, the roots of nature-based art can be traced back thousands of years.

[Unidentified speaker] Artists have been engaged with the landscape in one way or the other throughout the whole history of art, really, either as an image or material or both. I think it runs that whole gamut.

[John Acorn, Professor Emeritus, Visual Arts, Clemson University] Other cultures actually, for centuries, probably thousands of years, have used nature and landscape as part of art. And so this is a sort of a reinterpretation, taking art and nature and blending them into one.

[Francis Chamberlain, Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture, Clemson University] In the history classes, we look at great landscapes that have survived over centuries...and what prompted these? It wasn't that there were problems on the site, that there were water or drainage problems on the site, but man wanted to make his mark on the landscape.

Touch the Earth is a series of videos that explore the inspirations and processes behind Clemson's Nature-based Sculpture Program. The videos are a valuable resource for understanding the art form and are available through Clemson University.

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