



a natural state

Artist: Pearl Fryar

Video 4: Community Art, Part C: Community Effort

Lynn Eldridge: We had a chance to meet Mr. Fryar and tour his gardens, and that's all it took. I fell in love with the man because his sculptural approach to topiary art was phenomenal. And he... [indecipherable] and he loves people, and so we got charged just meeting him.

And then this idea started growing and developing about how can we get the young people of Sumter involved in this natural art form. And so the idea evolved of creating tile step-stones and a mosaic garden that works in conjunction with Mr. Fryar's topiary art.

Heidi Adler: Your surroundings are going to help define who you are. You're going to bring into that what you...what your experiences are throughout life.

A little bit of their, their own selves is brought into this piece. They're, they're using their styles, their likes or dislikes. They pull things from their parents' garden—things that they're familiar with, their interests—if they're interested in birds or insects or flowers. So there's a lot of individual students who have put their own personality into pieces they're creating.

Lynn Eldridge: They were doing this not just for themselves, but they were doing it for the town of Sumter. And as the project's growing and developing, they'll go down and they'll see their work. And they get real excited about "I've done this. This is my work. This is here in sight. This is going to be with Mr. Fryar's work." And they really take sense of pride and possession about it.

Artist: A mosaic is a series of pieces that make up something larger than itself...a lot like quilting...a lot like what Pearl does in his work. And it's really about adding one element to another to make something larger than yourself.