

The Roche Court Educational Trust

Learning Resources for Home and School

Focus on: Richard Long

About the artist

'My work has become a simple metaphor of life. A figure walking down his road, making his mark. It is an affirmation of my human scale and senses.'

Richard Long was born in 1945 and lives and works in Bristol. To make his art he often walks hundreds of miles through some of the most beautiful wilderness landscapes of the world, using his walks as art. He has made walks in Patagonia, Africa, Alaska, Mongolia and Japan, as well as in his local English landscape. The walks are recorded in the form of photographs of sculptures made along the way, map works and text works. The sculptures consist of elemental materials and timeless lines and circles, made with the material of the place, marking his presence within the emptiness. These works may be absorbed or disappear over time by natural forces and the elements. The artist's photographs and text become the record and mediation of these works.

(New Art Centre www.sculpture.uk.com)

In his own words, Long makes *"art about mobility, lightness and freedom. Simple creative acts of walking and marking about place, locality, time, distance and measurement. Works using raw materials and my human scale in the reality of landscapes."* (www.richardlong.org)



Richard Long, 'Nomad Circle', 1996 (www.richardlong.org)

Experience, explore, imagine

Since 1981, Long has also made paintings by applying liquid mud to a wall or surface by throwing, drawing and painting with his hands.



Top: 'Untitled' 2019 (www.richardlong.org/Drawings/2019/ONEILL/3787.html) Bottom Left: 'Untitled', 1991, Bottom Right: 'Untitled RL6', 2005, both © the artist and courtesy New Art Centre, Roche Court Sculpture Park

Mud mixing and mark making

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd by making your own Richard Long inspired mud paintings. This activity is perfect for Early Years and younger children.

Dig up a few handfuls of earth. (Adults - check for sharp bits).

Add water and mix until you have a sloppy consistency.

Explore the texture with your hands!



Explore mark making on paper with your fingers, thumbs and hands.

Can you spread your mud paint, make prints, squeeze it, drip it or splash with it?

What noises does it make?

What shapes and patterns can you create? Richard long often creates lines and circles.



Tip: compost from a bag doesn't work so well. Consistency is better with earth that has been dug up.

How else can you use your mud paint? Test out using paint brushes, sticks or other tools.

We used some objects and toys to help us make prints.



Investigate and make



Richard Long, 'Tame Buzzard Line', 2001 © the artist and courtesy New Art Centre, Roche Court Sculpture Park

'Tame Buzzard Line', 2001, is a site-specific sculpture at Roche Court Sculpture Park. A long line of local flint (approximately 35m x 0.71m) links the 400 year old Holm Oak with a 200 year old ash tree. During a visit to Roche Court, before the artwork was commissioned, Long observed a buzzard flying over his head, marking a line in space between the two trees. The sculpture provides a tangible record of the bird's path in that fleeting moment, the ephemeral flight captured with solid, ancient rock. This artwork describes the journey of the buzzard in a similar way to how Long's text pieces and photographs describe the walks he makes, and the ideas he has whilst doing them.

The straight line is an ancient form that reoccurs throughout time and geography, and it is a form typical of Long who employs archetypal shapes such as circles, crosses and spirals in his other sculptures.

Can you think of ways to map the path of humans and animals around your home or in your garden? Could you use objects, string or tape to mark a route? Perhaps you might want to make a floorplan and make a drawing of your journey.

Make a line and follow it

This activity is suitable for the whole family, together. We love this idea, posted on Instagram, by '[Leap Then Look](#)' (artists Bill Leslie and Lucy Cran). See the video [here](#).

Make a line and follow it - draw with tape and travel along it.

Electrical tape works best. You could also use marking tape or even string or thread.



Leap Then Look travelled along their drawing and found objects from around the house to place on the connections and make towers with. **What other rules or games can you devise?**



Develop and describe

WHITE LIGHT WALK

RED LEAVES OF A JAPANESE MAPLE

ORANGE SUN AT 4 MILES

YELLOW PARSNIPS AT 23 MILES

GREEN RIVER SLIME AT 45 MILES

BLUE EYES OF A CHILD AT 56 MILES

INDIGO JUICE OF A BLACKBERRY AT 69 MILES

VIOLET WILD CYCLAMEN AT 72 MILES

AVON ENGLAND 1987

Share your creations with us on Instagram: [@_ILoveSculpture](#) #ILoveSculpture

Reading, listening, watching

Watch - A BBC Archive extract from the long-running arts programme, 'Omnibus'. Filmed in 1983. Richard Baker introduces a short film celebrating the elusive English sculptor and land artist Sir Richard Long, showing him at work on Dartmoor: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/omnibus--richard-long/znvvmfr>

Read - More about Long's work on his website, including a whole catalogue of photographs and thought provoking text pieces: www.richardlong.org

Read an interview with Long and **Watch** a number of videos on his practice - Sculpture Magazine website: <https://sculpturemagazine.art/ideas-can-last-forever-a-conversation-with-richard-long/>