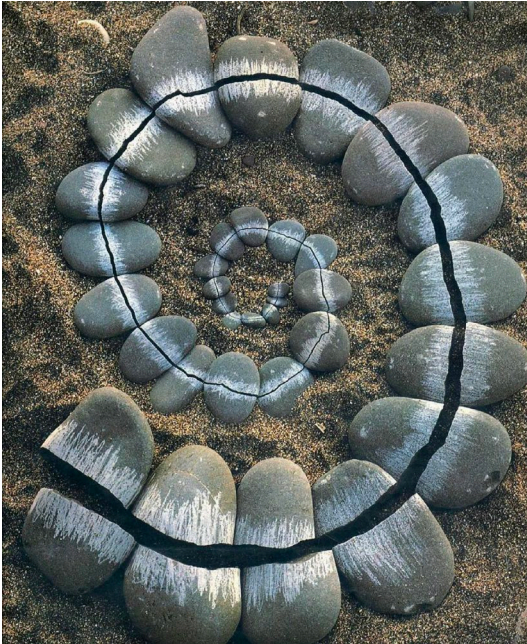


ISSUE: How can art and the environment affect one another?

1. TALKING POING - Art and Nature

- Give a detailed description of the artwork below:
- Give an account of the feelings, emotions or concepts conveyed through this artwork:



(to) **break**, (to) **crack in two** • (to) **scratch** • **pebbles** / **pebble stones** : *galets*

coiled: *enroulé* • (to) lay: arranger, disposer, déposer • a split, a fracture, fragmentation

2. GOING FURTHER - An Artist and his Style

This artwork was completed and photographed by Andy Goldsworthy in St. Abbs, Scotland on 1 June, 1985. The artist named his work “Carefully broken pebbles scratched white with another stone”.

- Match each artistic style or artistic movement with the corresponding definition:

Land Art

Environmental Art

Ephemeral Art

A - : Art that addresses social and political issues relating to the natural and urban environment.

B - : A type of art that only lasts for a short period of time and cannot be preserved by a museum gallery as a lasting object.

C - : Art that is made directly in the landscape, sculpting the land itself into earthworks or making structures in the landscape using natural materials such as rocks or twigs.

a **twig**: a small branch • **ephemeral**: transitory, short-lived, impermanent, fugitive

- *In your opinion, which artistic style or movement categorizes this artwork the best? Justify your choice.*

3. LISTENING - Andy Goldsworthy - His Artistic Process

Source: youtu.be/sngXz55b4bc



- *Watch the video and write down details about...*

- The artist



- His creative process

- The type of materials he likes to use

- What defines his style / his work methods

- His relation to nature

- The feelings, the emotions he tries to communicate or bring to mind

4. READING - About Creativity and the Environment

How Nature Makes a Better Artist

Correspondence with the natural environment is essential to creativity.



The relationship between people and nature is as old as our **very** existence. Actually, there's no separation between humankind and the natural world. But in recent decades an immense gulf has grown between the two. A study published by Environmental Research
5 and Public Health revealed that three-quarters of the children who took part didn't know what a **blackbird** is. It's even more serious in cities where many residents had no idea where the food on their tables came from.

In a hyper-connected and, in theory, hyper-informed world, it seems more and more people are moving away from natural spaces or forgetting their importance. By locking ourselves
10 in houses and apartments, walking only streets and avenues, we **miss out** on the benefits of a walk in the fresh air and a visit to a garden. That includes the preservation of our own mental health.

Nature's been shown to have unique **healing** capabilities that benefit people. And among all people, artists and creative minds are no exception.

15 **Art Teaches Us to Look**

Art helps us to understand and to observe nature. Thanks to poetry, painting, and photography, to name but a few examples, we have been taught that our concept of **aesthetics** is based, in many ways, on the beauty that exists implicitly in nature.

Every era has appreciated nature differently. Each one has learned to celebrate those
20 natural elements through its own means and styles. Take mountains for example, some civilizations saw climbing them as futile as it involved **tremendous** energy and a path full of **setbacks**. But mountains and volcanoes have been the objects of devotion too, they have inspired Asian arts of the past few centuries as well as Romanticism.

Art has taught us that everything in nature can be sublime: the horizons we discover, those
25 we transform, and those which transform us.

Nature as Inspiration

Although there's a belief that the best way to concentrate is **within** four walls, in total isolation, and in silence, several scientific studies have shown that inspiration is also
30 nourished when we escape confinement and find ourselves outdoors. Nature gives us peace and perspective.

Staying too long in confinement is counterproductive to the peace of mind necessary to creativity. A change of scenery can relieve stress. Choosing a quiet place, outdoors, in a space that allows one to breathe, is recommended because sometimes thoughts need a pause and then they flow in a better way.

35 "Freedom is the great magic mirror in which all pure and crystalline creation is reflected; **within** it are the tender spirits and the forms of the entirety of nature," wrote Novalis, the poet and philosopher who represented early Romanticism in Germany. He said this regarding the role played by nature **within** the universe of creativity. His statement is **accurate**, and it's an invitation to reimagine how we inhabit the natural world and learn from the perspective it can give us.

➤ *Read the text from the previous page and answer the following questions:*

A1 — TRUE or FALSE - Justify and explain your answer.

The younger generation is failing to truly connect with nature.

A2 — Answer in your own words - According to the author, how does an ultramodern, urbanized environment affect someone's quality of life?

A3 - How does nature contribute to a better perception of art and the creative process?

A4 - Make a list of all the benefits related to spending time in a natural environment:

A5 - Explain how man's relationship to the natural elements has evolved over time:

B - VOCABULARY - Name the benefits of natural environment:

.....: [*adverb*] particular, specific

.....: a common species of animals that are incredibly abundant in the USA

.....: to become healthy again; to make something healthy again

.....: the qualities and ideas in a work of art that relate to beauty and the nature of art

.....: very great in amount, scale, or intensity

.....: a difficulty or problem that delays or prevents something, or makes a situation worse

.....: inside the range or limits of something

.....: correct and true in every detail