

FUN AT HOME

MAKE YOUR OWN EARTHWORK

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- A foam tray from super-market packaging (wash it carefully)
- Sand (from the beach or a plant store)
- Salt
- Water
- A bowl
- A tablespoon
- A measuring cup
- Food coloring (optional)
- Pebbles or small rocks

1 **IMAGINE** you're looking down from an airplane, or think about a view of land you've seen, like hills, cliffs, mountains, or a lake or river.

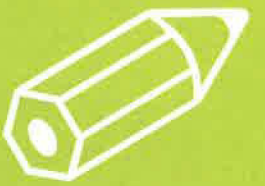
2 **PUT** the sand and salt into a bowl and mix them up with a spoon. You'll need about 3 tablespoons of salt for every 2 cups of sand.

3 **ADD** enough water to make the mixture completely wet. If you want some color, add a few drops of food coloring to the water first.

4 **PLACE** the mixture in the foam tray and create an environment for your **EARTHWORK** by making hills, cliffs, mountains, or a lake or river. Then make your **EARTHWORK** in the environment. Use the pebbles or rocks to make a special shape!

5 **AFTER** a day or two, the sand and salt will dry and become hard. If you want to change your **EARTHWORK**, just add water and start over!

WHITNEY kids



ACTIVITY GUIDE | SUMMER 2005



PLACES AND SPACES: EXPLORING THE ART OF ROBERT SMITHSON

Robert Smithson often looked for places or sites outdoors and used them to make art that he called **EARTHWORKS**. Smithson also made sculptures, photographs, drawings, collages, and films for indoor spaces such as art museums and galleries, and even for the pages of art magazines.

Robert Smithson used different materials like mirrors, maps, earth, and water to make his work. Sometimes he poured his materials onto surfaces or objects; other times he made piles of rocks, shells, or sand.

WELCOME TO THE WHITNEY!

This guide is for kids and grown-ups to use together as you visit the exhibition **Robert Smithson**, on view from **June 23 through October 23, 2005**. Inside you will find questions to guide you while you are looking, ideas to think about, suggested activities, and more to explore. Take the big elevator to the fourth-floor galleries. Need some help? Ask a Whitney gallery guard. Enjoy your visit!

Whitney Museum of American Art
945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street
New York, NY 10021
General Information: 1 (800) WHITNEY
Education Department: (212) 570-7722

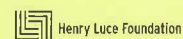
For more information about the exhibition and the Whitney's Family Programs, visit the Whitney's website at www.whitney.org.
For more information about Robert Smithson, go to: www.robertsmithson.com.

Please send your comments or suggestions about this guide to: learning@whitney.org.

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Altria

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FRONT: Robert Smithson, *Spiral Jetty*, Great Salt Lake, Utah, 1970. Mud, precipitated salt crystals, rocks, and water coil, 1,500 x 15 x 12 ft. (457.2 x 4.6 x 3.7 m). Dia Art Foundation, New York. Photograph © Gianfranco Gorgoni. Art © Estate of Robert Smithson/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

PAGE 1, TOP: *Mirror with Crushed Shells (Sanibel Island)*, 1969. Three mirrors, sand, and shells from Sanibel Island, Florida, 36 x 36 x 36 in. (91.4 x 91.4 x 91.4 cm). The Menil Collection, Houston. Art © Estate of Robert Smithson/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

PAGE 1, BOTTOM: *Floating Island to Travel around Manhattan Island*, 1970. Graphite on paper, 19 x 24 in. (48.3 x 61 cm). Private collection. Photograph courtesy Christie's, New York. Art © Estate of Robert Smithson/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY



EARTHWORKS

Works of art made in the natural landscape or environment during the 1960s and 1970s. Earthworks were often large and made of materials such as earth and rocks.



Where would you choose to put it? Why would you put it there? What materials would it be made of? What would you need to make your **EARTHWORK**? A dump truck? A shovel? People to help? What would it look like? What would you want people to notice about it?

FIND sculptures made of mirrors and piles of stuff. Describe what you see in the mirrors to the adults or kids you're with.

LOOK at some of the drawings that Smithson made when he was thinking about how to create his **EARTHWORKS**. Talk about the types of places he chose and what he planned to do there.

THINK about the different materials that Smithson used as you explore the exhibition. Why might he have chosen a certain material for a particular work of art? What do you think Robert Smithson wanted you to notice about his work?

DRAW! Imagine that you are designing an **EARTHWORK** for a site or place in your neighborhood.

Draw your **EARTHWORK** design in the site or place that you choose. The adult you're with can help with the drawing. On the line above, write the name or title of your **EARTHWORK**. Write what you need to make your **EARTHWORK** on the lines below.

EXPLORE Watch and talk about Smithson's film *The Spiral Jetty* (1970), an **EARTHWORK** on the Great Salt Lake of Utah. What did Smithson do to change this place? How has the **EARTHWORK** changed over time?



TITLE

Large blank area for drawing the Earthwork design.

Two horizontal lines for writing the name or title of the Earthwork and the materials needed to make it.