

DAVID NASH



Forms that Grow in the Night
(2009)



David Nash was born in Surrey in 1945.

He went to Art College in Brighton and attended the Chelsea School of Art, completing his studies in 1970.

Nash spent his childhood in Wales where he helped to clear and replant a forest his father owned.

During this time he learned a great deal about the properties of wood, which lead to a life long interest.

Nash makes Land Art. One of his most well known pieces is called *Wooden Boulder* (1978). It involves the journey of a large wooden sphere, that moves naturally through the landscape following the course of rivers and streams. Nash enjoys the idea of the wood eventually being returned to the land.

He also creates living sculpture by shaping trees, like *Ash Dome* (1977), a circle of Ash trees that have been trained to create a dome as they grow.

The blackness of *Forms that Grow in the Night* absorbs the light, so it is easier to see the form of the sculpture, rather than the material it is made from.

David Nash says that if he had been making art a hundred years ago he would be a landscape artist, but that is simply a portrait of the land - he wants to create *in* the land.

For Nash the land is essential. It is important to him that his sculptures are in the right place.

With *Forms that Grow in the Night*, Nash used a chainsaw to sculpt the wood and a carefully controlled burning technique to char the wood.

Once it has been burned, it is sprayed with water to cool it down. Any loose char is then scraped away and it is re-charred by hand with a propane fuelled blowtorch. This produces a very tight texture so the black surface doesn't fall away.

They are placed in an ordinary way so they don't overshadow nature. They are both 'something' and 'nothing', looking as if they have always been there.

David Nash uses unseasoned wood so the sculptures continue to warp, twist and crack over time without his involvement.



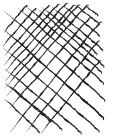
For more information about the artist visit:

An interview with David Nash
[www.sculpture.org/documents/
scmag01/dec01/nash/nash.shtml](http://www.sculpture.org/documents/scmag01/dec01/nash/nash.shtml)

SOURCES

Video of David Nash carving and burning
Forms that Grow in the Night (2008)
www.culturecolony.com/videos?id=325

Use different methods of shading to create
a close up of the charred surface.



If Nash had been born a century ago,
he would have been a landscape painter.
Land Art had not been defined then.

DISCUSS

What art movements do you think might
evolve in the future?

Nash wants his sculptures
to become part of the land.

DISCUSS

Why do you think he doesn't
want them to stand out?

The title of the sculpture is
Forms that Grow in the Night.

THINK

What do you think Nash meant
by this?

Nash's sculptures continue to evolve
in their response to the environment.
They crack, twist, weather, grow
and even move.

DISCUSS

Discuss how far you would consider
Nash to be the creator of these
sculptures?

Choose one of the *Forms that Grow in the Night*
to create a detailed contour drawing
using single lines.