

RICHARD LONG



Cornish Slate Line (1990)
Size: 2530cm x 260cm x 7.5cm

Richard Long was born in Bristol in 1945. He studied at the University of the West of England's College of Art (1962-65) and then at St Martin's School of Art and Design, London (1966-68). There he was under the guidance of the well known artists Anthony Caro and Phillip King.

Long became associated with the emergence of a genre from the 1960's called **Land Art**. He also began experimenting with the idea of impermanence - i.e. that artwork does not have to be permanent.

In the 1970's Long's work took place mostly as he walked through the landscape making slight alterations to the ground or minor adjustments to natural features, such as upending stones or tracing his path in the ground.

In a significant early piece, Long walked back and forth along a straight line in the grass and photographed the path he had made in black and white. This idea of making a sculpture by walking has influenced many of Long's sculptures. He records these journeys in a variety of ways such as, a photograph, map, text or an installation.

Land Art is the name given to artwork which is inspired by natural processes.

Artists use organic substances for their raw materials such as wood, soil and stone and show a consideration for the environment.

Cornish Slate Line was originally created for an exhibition in the Duveen Galleries at the Tate Gallery in London along with two other works *Norfolk Flint Circle* and *White Water Line*. All three pieces use natural materials found commonly in Britain. The *Cornish Slate Line* comprises of pieces of slate arranged systematically, that the artist has collected on a journey through the Cornish countryside. In the gallery, the installation ran from one doorway to another, tempting the visitor to walk upon it.



*"The music of stones,
paths of shared footmarks,
sleeping by the river's roar"*



For more information about the artist visit
his website: www.richardlong.org

SOURCES

Also watch a clip of him creating his
piece *Road River* on Youtube:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_nQI_srLOJc

To recreate the concept of your walk today,

THINK

what natural materials could you use and
how would you use them?

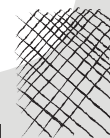
On his website Long says he creates:

*"Works using raw materials and my
human scale in the reality of landscapes"*

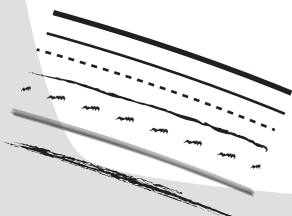
DISCUSS

What is the significance of using his human
scale in his Land Art?

Draw detailed study of part of the
Cornish Slate Line. Use crosshatch shading



Crosshatch shading



Consider how you have walked to get to the *Cornish Slate Line*.
Using a variety of marks, create a map of your walk.