

GOLDSWORTHY IN THE PRESIDIO



About the Artist



Andy Goldsworthy is one of the world's most renowned site-specific artists. In 2005, *Smithsonian Magazine* named him one of 35 people "who made a difference," saying that he uses "nature as his canvas [to create] work of transcendent beauty."

Born in 1956, Goldsworthy spent his childhood in Yorkshire, England. His work has been featured in a diverse array of open air spaces from the Yorkshire Dales to the North Pole and the Australian Outback. His works in the Bay Area include *Stone River* at

Stanford University and *Drawn Stone* at the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park.

Goldsworthy draws his inspiration from place and creates art from the materials found close at hand, such as twigs, leaves, stones, snow, and ice, striving "to make connections between what we call nature and what we call man-made."

Andy Goldsworthy + The Presidio

Renowned artist Andy Goldsworthy began his relationship with the Presidio when he first visited in 2006. As he discovered the Presidio's historic forest, architecture, and vistas, he became fascinated with the interplay of city and nature, people and place, the built environment and wild open spaces.

Goldsworthy has explored this complexity through four art installations - *Spire*, *Wood Line*, *Tree Fall*, and *Earth Wall* - created here between 2008 and 2014. The Presidio is now home to the largest collection of his works on public view in North America. The works, enjoyed by thousands of people each year, build on a long tradition of art within parks. They are fundamentally about place, derived from materials found here and designed to allow viewers to experience the familiar in a new way.

Goldsworthy's installations can be visited individually or enjoyed together via a three-mile hiking loop along the Presidio's trail network (view map on back page).

I do love working in the same place, time and time again. I feel that I can make far stronger work. Spire that's exploring the sense of space. Wood Line [exploring] the surface. Tree Fall getting very subterranean. But that idea of getting underneath the surface - [Earth Wall] has pushed into territory that's new for me, and has opened up all sorts of new possibilities.

The human element in the Presidio is critical to how I think about the place. Because you know, my touch is an expression of the human presence in the place. What we're doing now is laying down another layer, upon which others will be laid in time, over ours. It's been a huge honor to be allowed to make so many works here, and not just to leave an object, but a layer.

- Andy Goldsworthy

To view videos about Andy Goldsworthy's Presidio installations and to learn about guided tours, visit www.presidio.gov/art.

About the Presidio + The Presidio Trust



Located at the Golden Gate, the Presidio was a U.S. Army post for generations. In 1994, the Army departed the Presidio and it became a national park. In 1996, Congress established the Presidio Trust, an innovative federal agency, to care for the Presidio and welcome the public at no cost to taxpayers. The Trust works in partnership with the National Park Service and the non-profit Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

For two decades, the Presidio Trust and its partners have worked to revitalize historic buildings, welcome visitors, restore open spaces, and rejuvenate the 300-acre forest first planted by the Army in the 19th century. The forest is the largest contributing feature to the Presidio's National Historic Landmark District designation and an important part of the park's ecosystem. The Presidio Trust is in the midst of a multi-decade effort to replace declining groves with young trees. To date, nearly 4,000 young trees have been planted. The forest and its rejuvenation are key themes in Andy Goldsworthy's Presidio works.

Art in the Presidio

The Presidio Trust invites a wide range of artists to bring their unique perspectives here as a way to foster conversations about the place and encourage people to explore their national park. Since 2008, a dozen exhibitions have encouraged thousands of visitors to see the park's natural and cultural treasures through a new lens. Exhibits have included many ways for visitors to experience the area, from self-guided exploration to curated programs.

Art is made possible through a variety of partnerships and philanthropic support. *Spire*, *Wood Line*, and *Tree Fall* were made possible through the FOR-SITE Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the idea that art can inspire fresh thinking and important dialogue about our natural and cultural environment. For more, visit www.for-site.org.



www.presidio.gov

Presidio
Trust

FOR-SITE FOUNDATION

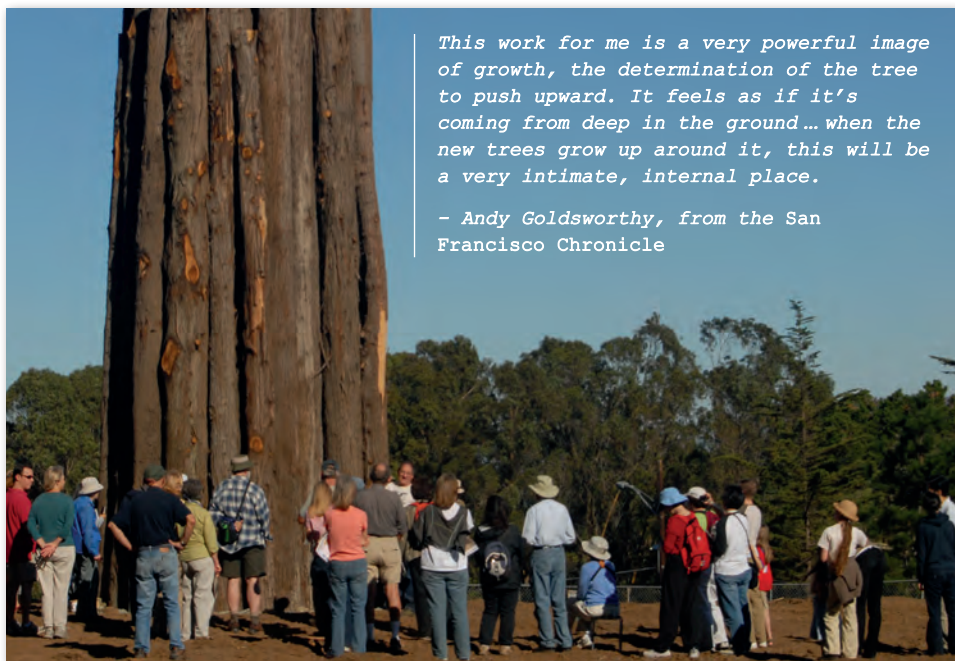
art about place

www.for-site.org

SPIRE

Spire was Goldsworthy's first Presidio installation. The idea was sparked in 2006 when he visited the Presidio for the first time, learning about the park's historic forest and the Trust's effort to revitalize it for future generations.

Two years later, he returned to create *Spire*. Working with the Presidio Trust forestry crew, he selected 37 large Monterey cypress trunks from the declining trees felled at the site and meticulously fastened them together. *Spire* is 15 feet wide at its base and stretches 100 feet into the sky. It not only references the architecture of nearby trees but also buildings visible from the site, including the Transamerica Pyramid and church spires. The sculpture is fated to fade into the forest as young cypress trees planted at its base ultimately grow to obscure the piece – like the old forest welcoming the new.



This work for me is a very powerful image of growth, the determination of the tree to push upward. It feels as if it's coming from deep in the ground... when the new trees grow up around it, this will be a very intimate, internal place.

- Andy Goldsworthy, from the San Francisco Chronicle

**Located along the Bay Area Ridge Trail just north of the Presidio Golf Course Clubhouse, near the Arguello Gate (see map on reverse).
Open to the public daily.**

WOOD LINE

In 2010 and 2011, Goldsworthy found inspiration in the Presidio's largest contiguous eucalyptus grove, located adjacent to the Presidio's oldest footpath, Lovers' Lane. In the late 1800s the Army planted eucalyptus with rows of Monterey cypress periodically interspersed. Conditions did not favor the cypress and they quickly died out, leaving open gaps in the forest floor.



Goldsworthy filled one of these empty spaces with *Wood Line*, a quiet and graceful sculpture that extends more than 1,200 feet on the forest floor. Using eucalyptus branches sourced from

the Presidio, the artist shaped a sinuous line that, in his words, "draws the place." Whereas *Spire* reaches upward, *Wood Line* flows elegantly into a valley in the Tennessee Hollow Watershed.

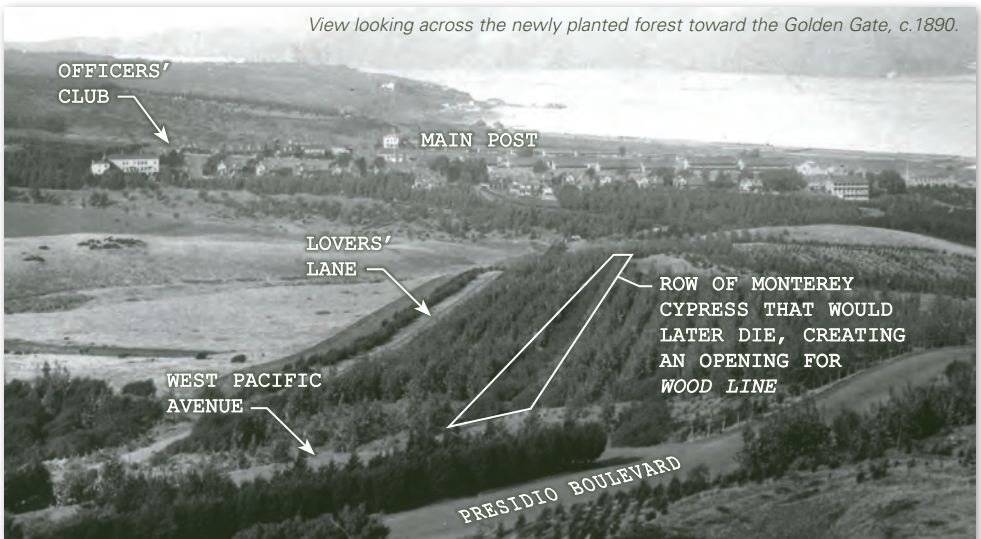
Coming back [to the Presidio] is so important. It deepens my sense of the gradual transformation of the landscape. It's not just about drawing a line in the ground but seeing how its surface changes over time.

- Andy Goldsworthy, from the New York Times

Wood Line invites interaction, and

visitors can often be seen tracing the sculpture with their own steps. *Wood Line* will deteriorate over time and is not conceived as a permanent addition to the Presidio landscape.

View looking across the newly planted forest toward the Golden Gate, c.1890.



**Located along Lovers' Lane just north of West Pacific Avenue
near the Presidio Gate (see map on reverse).
Open to the public daily.**

TREE FALL



Created in 2013, *Tree Fall* was the first Presidio Goldsworthy installation to be created indoors.

Its backdrop is the historic Powder Magazine, constructed on the Main Post during the Civil War. The petite structure protected gun powder and munitions and is made up of four-foot-thick stone walls. Upon entering the structure there is a domed roof. The feature was built for the utilitarian purpose of minimizing damage in adjacent

areas in the event of an accidental explosion. One hundred and fifty years later, it inspired Goldsworthy's plans for *Tree Fall*. The building was used continuously by the Army until it departed the post in 1994. At the end of its military tenure the building was used to store blank rounds for the daily 5 pm evening gun salute.

Tree Fall is comprised of a tree branch suspended from the domed roof so that the sculpture does not touch or alter the historic walls. The branch and ceiling were covered with clay, also from the Presidio, that dried and cracked into a beautiful organic pattern.

My art is an attempt to reach beyond the surface appearance. I want to see growth in wood, time in stone, nature in a city and I do not mean its parks but a deeper understanding that a city is nature too – the ground upon which it is built, the stone with which it is made.

– Andy Goldsworthy

The sculpture illustrates the relationship between the natural and built environments. When a visitor enters the chamber, illuminated only with natural light, the sculpture takes shape as one's eyes adjust. The feeling is one of entering not just a building, but a landscape.

The Powder Magazine and surrounding American period structures, c.1900.



Located inside the historic Powder Magazine, 95 Anza Ave (see map on reverse). Open weekends, 10am to 4pm (Mar to mid-Nov) and 12pm to 3pm (mid-Nov to March), and weekdays by appointment. Call (415) 561-2767.

EARTH WALL



Earth Wall was completed in 2014 inside the Hardie Courtyard at the historic Presidio Officers' Club. First established in 1776, the adobe walls of the Officers' Club stand testament to California's beginnings. Today, this beloved building has been transformed into a multi-faceted cultural destination, complete with an archaeology research program that explores how people lived and experienced the Presidio over time.

Earth Wall explores what is happening beneath the surface. It is comprised of a six foot wide half sphere constructed of curved eucalyptus branches. The sphere was attached to the courtyard wall and then buried within a rammed earth wall. The artist then partially excavated the sphere, evoking the rich archaeological resources surrounding the site.

The rammed earth was made with excess soil taken from the courtyard site during renovation of the

Officers' Club. A grove of historic eucalyptus can be seen in the distance behind the wall, serving as a backdrop for this poignant work.

A short film and a photo booklet illuminating the construction process are available for view at the Welcome Desk at the Presidio Officers' Club.

I feel all sorts of things when I stand in front of [Earth Wall]. And the people who've come in here and expressed opinions have also. One guy said this looks like the rendering of images of the core of the earth. And you know, it's the exact same thing that apparently is going on in the core of the earth, which is a beautiful idea - to go beyond the surface appearance of things. It's a very important one for me.

I know it's the [most recent] piece, but maybe it's where it all begins, with this really intense core - you know, what's happening here? What's happening in the Presidio?

- Andy Goldsworthy



**Located inside the Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue
on the Main Post (see map on reverse).**

Open Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 am to 5 pm. Closed Mondays.

Map of the Presidio of San Francisco

Trails:

- Multi-use
- Connector/Pedestrian Only
- Future
- Stairs

Legend:

- Parking
- PresidioGo Shuttle Stop

Distances:

- Tree Fall to Earth Wall: 0.9 mile
- Earth Wall to Wood Line: 0.8 mile
- Wood Line to Spire: 0.8 mile
- Spire to Tree Fall: 0.8 mile
- Complete Loop = 2.7 miles

Directions? www.presidio.gov/transportation