

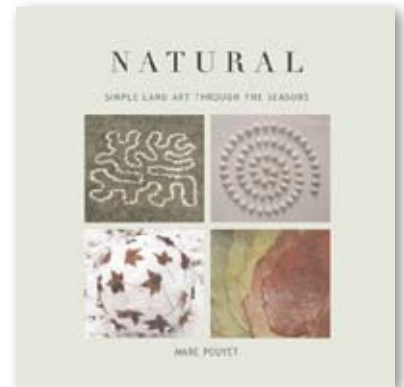
Interview with Marc Pouyet, creator of *Natural*

Where do you get your inspiration from?

I get my inspiration from interacting with nature. Either from the items that I choose to make an installation with (leaves, branches, flowers, stones), or from the wonderful places that I find, either through going on walks or doing some research.

Why did you decide to make land art?

I don't know whether I decided to make land art, or whether land art chose me! One day I decided to leave Paris to go and live right in the centre of France in the Millevaches plateau. Until then I had been a graphic designer, but this new contact I had with the natural environment meant that I very quickly decided that I wanted to be creative with nature. The trigger was a meeting with an editor, who persuaded me to work on my first book, *Natural*. I have now written a second book on land art in the garden.



How long did the art in the book take you to create?

The book took a year to make, following the seasons.

Do you leave your land art, or do you take it apart after you have photographed it?

I make all the installations and take all the photos too, and very often I like making extremely simple ones. Taking the photo then becomes an important part of the creative process. Mostly I leave the land art where it is, as I like coming back to see how it changes and evolves over time. I like the ephemeral (short-lived) side of land art.

What has been your favourite piece of land art that you've made?

I don't know – I love all my children equally! I love the rainbow that I've made with branches covered in flower petals and also the spider's web made from grass. I've kept the web hung on a wire frame on a white wall in my office at home. I wanted to see how well the grass would keep over the last three years. Time has taken its toll on the work: one of the grasses that holds the rest of the web in place has disintegrated but, unbelievably, a real spider has spun a thread in its place that is allowing the web to stay together!

What has been your most adventurous piece of land art?

It must be the dandelion clock pieces as they are so delicate to manipulate. But I love many of these light installations – they reveal the beauty and creativity of nature that is impossible to beat.

How did you make the cube with the maple leaves sticking out, shown on our poster?

I folded the leaves. The difficulty is in choosing leaves that are neither too dry nor too brittle. When one uses a plant for land art, one begins to more readily understand its properties and peculiarities.





Land art: Spring

- Look at the two images on the poster.
 - How do they make you feel?
 - Talk about which one you prefer.
- How do you know that they represent springtime?
- Have you ever made a daisy chain? Could this be a form of land art?
- What other things do you think represent spring?





Land art: Summer

- Look at the two images on the poster.
 - How do they make you feel?
 - Talk about which one you prefer.
- How do you know that they represent summertime?
- Have you ever made a sand sculpture at the beach?
- Have you ever touched seaweed or a wet pebble? What did it feel like?
- What other things do you think represent summer?





Land art:

Autumn

- Look at the two images on the poster.
 - How do they make you feel?
 - Talk about which one you prefer.
- How do you know that they represent autumn time?
- Have you ever jumped in a pile of dry leaves in the autumn?
Describe the sound you made!
- What other things do you think represent autumn?





Land art:

Winter

- Look at the two images on the poster.
 - How do they make you feel?
 - Talk about which one you prefer.
- How do you know that they represent winter time?
- Have you ever made a snowman? Is this a form of art?
 - Do you know what a snow angel is?
- What other things do you think represent winter?

