

Two Visiting Sculptors to Discuss Their Work Wednesday

October 30, 2007

Tweet

Like 0



October 30, 2007, Greencastle, Ind. - As part of this year's [ArtsFest](#) at DePauw University, artists Susan Watt Grade and Patrick Dougherty will discuss their work this Wednesday, October 31. You're invited to the free event, which begins at 4 p.m. at the Richard E. Peeler Art Center.

An Indianapolis-based artist, Susan Watt Grade creates sculptural works that are inspired by the terrain, sky and history of the Midwest, and considers her work to be landscapes that reflect what we -- society -- make and occupy. Watt Grade creates temporary -- both salvaged and new -- that respond to a specific site, or the memory of a site. Using forms and objects that imitate nature or tell a story about perceptions of value, Watt Grade assembles her materials into a new form and places them back in a specific site as a kind of environmental intervention. (at right: *Cover*, installation at Indianapolis City Market)

"I want viewers to take notice of what they might tend to overlook," Watt Grade says. "And, as a result, I hope viewers will become questioning observers who contemplate (and perhaps change) their everyday systems of judgment, value and beauty."

Susan Watt Grade holds an M.F.A. in Sculpture from Washington University (St. Louis) and is exhibitions associate at the Indianapolis Art Center.



During the past decade, Patrick Dougherty has built over 100 works throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, using saplings to create monumental sculptures that are intended to respect nature and add to the natural surroundings. All of his environmental installations are site-specific and are inspired by the

local environment. (at left: installation by Dougherty at Max Azria Melrose Avenue Boutique, Los Angeles, California; photo by David Calicchio)



"My affinity for trees as a material seems to come from a childhood spent wandering the forest around Southern Pines, North Carolina; a place with thick underbrush



and many intersecting lines evident in the bare winter branches of trees," he says. "When I turned to sculpture as an adult, I was drawn to sticks as a plentiful and renewable resource. I realized that saplings have an

inherent method of joining; that is, sticks entangle easily. This snagging property is the key to working material into a variety of large forms."

Dougherty will be on the DePauw campus from November 1-19 to install a large sculptural work commissioned by the University. Volunteers are needed to assist with the project, which is detailed in [this story](#).



Watt Grade will also create a sculptural work at DePauw that will be installed in front of the Peeler Art Center. The piece will utilize and reclaim discarded material from our consumer-driven society.

Visit the galleries of the Peeler Art Center by [clicking here](#).

[Back](#)