

# Andy Goldsworthy Quotes

*Artist, Art, Stones, Thinking, People, Important, Winter, Years, Weather, Land,  
Trying, Energy, Way, Understanding, Rocks, Landscape, Beautiful, Rain, Ice,  
Growth*

We often forget that WE ARE NATURE. Nature is not something separate from us. So when we say that we have lost our connection to nature, we've lost our connection to ourselves.

~Andy Goldsworthy

My sculpture can last for days or a few seconds - what is important to me is the experience of making. I leave all my work outside and often return to watch it decay.

~Andy Goldsworthy

There is life in a stone. Any stone that sits in a field or lies on a beach takes on the memory of that place. You can feel that stones have witnessed so many things.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Snow provokes responses that reach right back to childhood.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Time gives growth, it gives continuity and it gives change. And in the case of some sculptures, time gives a patina to them.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Nature, for me is raw and dangerous and difficult and beautiful and unnerving.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I think that any sculpture is a response to its environment. It can be brought to life or put to sleep by the environment.

~Andy Goldsworthy

You must have something new in a landscape as well as something old, something that's dying and something that's being born.

~Andy Goldsworthy

When I make a work, I often take it to the very edge of its collapse, and that's a very beautiful balance.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I'm very fortunate to be able to do what I do and live the way I do.

~Andy Goldsworthy

People also leave presence in a place even when they are no longer there.

~Andy Goldsworthy

It takes between three and six hours to make each snowball, depending on snow quality. Wet snow is quick to work with but also quick to thaw, which can lead to a tense journey to the cold store.

~Andy Goldsworthy

The first snowball I froze was put in my mother's deep freeze when I was in my early 20s.

~Andy Goldsworthy

If I had to describe my work in one word, that word would be time.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I'm cautious about using fire. It can become theatrical. I am interested in the heat, not the flames.

~Andy Goldsworthy

The things that I make are that which a person will make. They're not meant to mimic nature. They are nothing but the result of a hand of a person.

~Andy Goldsworthy

A snowball is simple, direct and familiar to most of us. I use this simplicity as a container for feelings and ideas that function on many

levels.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Not being able to touch is sometimes as interesting as being able to touch.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Movement, change, light, growth, and decay are the life-blood of nature, the energies that I try to tap through my work.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Even in winter an isolated patch of snow has a special quality.

~Andy Goldsworthy

People are the nature of the city, and you can feel it in the pavement.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Generally in New York, people just walk over you with no problem about that. Other countries, people want to resuscitate you, like, after a bit.

~Andy Goldsworthy

My art recognizes the human place, the human context - especially in Britain, which is a landscape so worked by people for thousands of years, written, deeply ingrained with the presence of people.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Winter makes a bridge between one year and another and, in this case, one century and the next.

~Andy Goldsworthy

The essence of drawing is the line exploring space.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Art is not a career - it's a life.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I'm not a performer, in that I don't like the public, but I work in that respect.

~Andy Goldsworthy

The process of growth is obviously critical to my understanding of the land and myself. So the process is far more unpredictable with far more compromises with the day, the weather, the material.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Some of the snowballs have a kind of animal energy. Not just because of the materials inside them, but in the way that they appear caged, captured.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Understanding the materials I work with... gives me a deeper understanding of my place. And it's helped me make sense of the changes that are happening to me as I grow older.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Confrontation is something that I accept as part of the project though not its purpose.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Stones are checked every so often to see if any have split or at worst exploded. An explosion can leave debris in the elements so the firing has to be abandoned.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Occasionally I have come across a last patch of snow on top of a mountain in late May or June. There's something very powerful about finding snow in summer.

~Andy Goldsworthy

The difference between a theatre with and without an audience is enormous. There is a palpable, critical energy created by the presence of the audience.

~Andy Goldsworthy

As you grow older you realize that art has an enormous effect. It's frightening sometimes to think of the effect that we can have.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Fire is the origin of stone. By working the stone with heat, I am returning it to its source.

~Andy Goldsworthy

When I do the permanent projects or the big projects, when a work is finished, that's the beginning of its life.

~Andy Goldsworthy

It's just that when I work on someone else's land, it makes me aware of the social nature of that landscape.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I am not a performer but occasionally I deliberately work in a public context. Some sculptures need the movement of people around them to work.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I did tests on small stones before collecting and committing myself to the larger ones.

~Andy Goldsworthy

The reason why the stone is red is its iron content, which is also why our blood is red.

~Andy Goldsworthy

It's frightening and unnerving to watch a stone melt.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Three or four stones in one firing will all react differently. I try to achieve a balance between those that haven't progressed enough and those about to go too far.

~Andy Goldsworthy

The photography is not the aim of the work; the articulation of the work through photography is another way of understanding what's going on and what's happening outside.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I see my work plagiarized in gardening programmes and decorating programmes and car adverts, and I suppose I have to accept that's just the way art gets assimilated into culture.

~Andy Goldsworthy

A stone is ingrained with geological and historical memories.

~Andy Goldsworthy

The stones tear like flesh, rather than breaking. Although what happens is violent, it is a violence that is in stone. A tear is more unnerving than a break.

~Andy Goldsworthy

A lot of my work is like picking potatoes; you have to get into the rhythm of it. It is different than patience. It is not thinking. It is working with the rhythm.

~Andy Goldsworthy

The hardened mass of liquid stones had much stronger qualities than

those which had simply torn. The skin remained a recognisable part of the molten stone.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Beauty is what sustains things, although beauty is underwritten by pain and fear.

~Andy Goldsworthy

The relationship between the public and the artist is complex and difficult to explain. There is a fine line between using this critical energy creatively and pandering to it.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I just see myself as an object in the final image. I know I'm experiencing it when I'm there working on it. I'm there to be worked with, as anything else that I work with.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Sometimes you need to stop doing something to really see it afresh.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Complete control can be the death of a work.

~Andy Goldsworthy

If I'm going to understand the land, I have to understand the wind, the snow, the rain, the leaves, the ice, and changes in temperature. It just reflects a reality for me.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Once the fired stone is out of the kiln, it is still possible to mentally reconstruct it in its original form.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Ephemeral work made outside, for and about a day, lies at the core of

my art and its making must be kept private.

~Andy Goldsworthy

If you repeat something, it can become pointless. Some things can repeat and be endlessly fascinating.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I love the winter. Well, I love all the seasons, but the winter is possibly one of the most intense.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Photography is a way of putting distance between myself and the work which sometimes helps me to see more clearly what it is that I have made.

~Andy Goldsworthy

If you lay in the rain, every rain shower, storm, whatever, is different. Every surface is different.

~Andy Goldsworthy

If you've ever come across a tree that you've lived with for many years and then one day it's blown over, there's incredible shock and violence about that.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Design implies a sense of mapping something out and then you follow the plan.

~Andy Goldsworthy

We often forget that we are nature.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I think that I'm always trying to get beyond the surface appearance of things, to go beyond what I can just see.

~Andy Goldsworthy

There are occasions when I have moved boulders, but I'm reluctant to, especially ones that have been rooted in a place for many years.

~Andy Goldsworthy

The main source of my income is through the commissions of the large-scale works and big sculptures, the projects.

~Andy Goldsworthy

People do not realise that many of my works are done in urban places. I was brought up on the edge of Leeds, five miles from the city centre-on one side were fields and on the other, the city.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I enjoy working in a quiet and subversive way.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I take the opportunity each day offers.

~Andy Goldsworthy

We leave our presence in the pavement. We're walking over it, sitting on steps.

~Andy Goldsworthy

The British climate, although it is very wet, it is quite mild in winter. We don't get these severe - generally don't get severe winters.

~Andy Goldsworthy

The early firings contained many stones.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I go way beyond just the wood and stone but to the process of growth and farming and the tensions between the two.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I have six acres in front of my own house, which I very rarely work on. Most of the work occurs on farmers' fields around me. And I like the discipline of working on other people's land.

~Andy Goldsworthy

I can't edit the materials I work with. My remit is to work with nature as a whole.

~Andy Goldsworthy

It's art that's taught me to think and to write.

~Andy Goldsworthy

My work comes first, reasons for it follow.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Everything has the energy of its making inside it.

~Andy Goldsworthy

One of the beauties of art is that it reflects an artist's entire life. What I've learned over the past 30 years is really beginning to inform what I make. I hope that process continues until I die.

~Andy Goldsworthy

Art for me is a form of nourishment. I need the land. I need it.

~Andy Goldsworthy

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