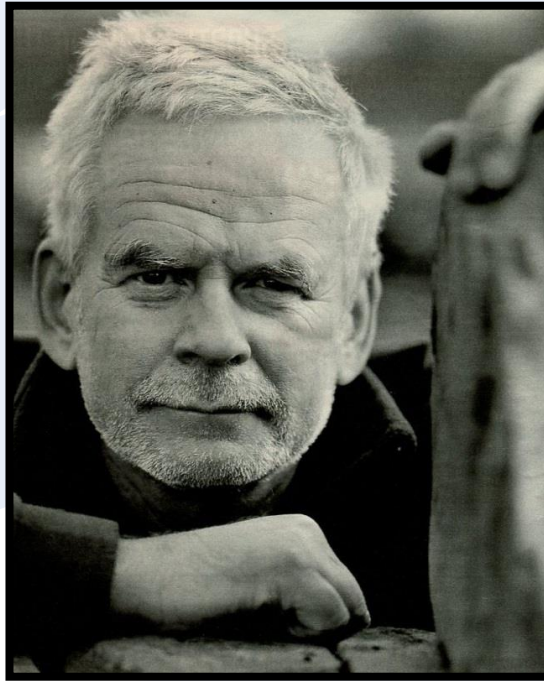




# The Challenge

## Andy Goldsworthy OBE



Andy Goldsworthy was born in Cheshire, England, in 1956. He now works in Scotland, living just 17 miles away from Dumfries.

As a teenager, Andy worked as a farm labourer when not in school. His experiences nurtured his interest in nature, the cycles of the seasons, and the outdoors. Andy has linked the repetitiveness of some farm tasks to the routine of his art-making. He has said, 'a lot of my work is like picking potatoes; you have to get into the rhythm of it.'

At art school, Andy discovered his fondness for creating art outdoors. He began to make temporary artworks using stones, leaves, sticks, snow, ice and any other natural materials available to him. Andy has described his approach to artmaking as a 'collaboration with nature' where he learns more about the materials that he is working with and what they are capable of. His process requires patience and flexibility.

In the late 1990s, Andy made a series called Sheep Paintings. He put a large canvas on the ground in a sheep pasture and then placed a sheep lick in the middle of it. The finished works show a white circle or hole in the centre (where the sheep lick had been) surrounded by the smears and splatters created by the movement of the sheep. You can see one of these pieces in the video message that Andy has made for everyone at Stranraer Academy.

Andy has created permanent indoor and outdoor works, such as a permanent Holocaust memorial called Garden of Stones (2003) for the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City and an installation for the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. called Roof (2004 – 2005). Andy's work has been celebrated in several solo exhibitions. He has also been the subject of two documentary films by director Thomas Riedelsheimer, Rivers and Tides (2001) and Leaning into the Wind (2017). In 2000, Andy was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).