Espace Sculpture

Jeane Fabb
...gently holding...

John K. Grande

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The next stage of Fabb's artwork involved placing a series of sticks (recycled from a nearby artist's Yurtwork) at a specific distance from the body-form of each participant, forming a sort of shadow image of each person. Christiane describes the process: "Jeane was carefully putting the sticks around me. Sometimes I felt that they were touching me. As I was lying there I perceived the world like a newborn baby."

Stick placement usually followed a discussion about one's feelings and relation to the land, be it Wales or another land that people came from to be there. This was unquestionably a woman's perspective on the land. Each person lay on a black cloth, and a cord traversing the territory ran under each person's body, thus connecting all participants. Fabb has successively used black cloth in previous events. Back in 1981 in the Laurentians, it symbolized the effects of acid rain on the environment. Since 1995, Fabb has featured black cloth in her Wilderness Women in Black actions and in performances to do with solidarity between women and the land.

After the creation of their particular silhouette, the women left. Earth recycled from residue of a 160-foot earthen whale sculpture nearby was then piled to form a sort of shelter or windbreak. The earth walls were lined with a very thin layer of raw wool (a women by the name of Nada had taught Fabb to card wool). When each woman returned, her place was built. The earthen shapes recalled the forms of mythic ships, or shelters, even a primordial past, or an ancient journey to a place devoid of anything contemporary. The overall atmosphere was reminiscent of Mother Earth Art pioneer Ana Mendieta's body art pieces, but the scale was larger and Fabb's initiative was a collective and collaborative one. On the last day, Sunday June 30th, all original participants except one took part in a perfor-

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NOTES

2. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. John K. Grande, "Ancient raises interaction between women, as each participant, for reasons particular to themselves — the location's relation to other women, or the view from a chosen vantage point —, selected a place along it. Christiane, a German visitor and participant, commented, "Jeane asked me to chose one of the seven places she had marked in the countryside... I chose the left outside space, between the old oak tree and a telegraph mast. I was lying on the ground and my first sensation was that my body was meeting something organic, that it was an energetic place. I became very excited."