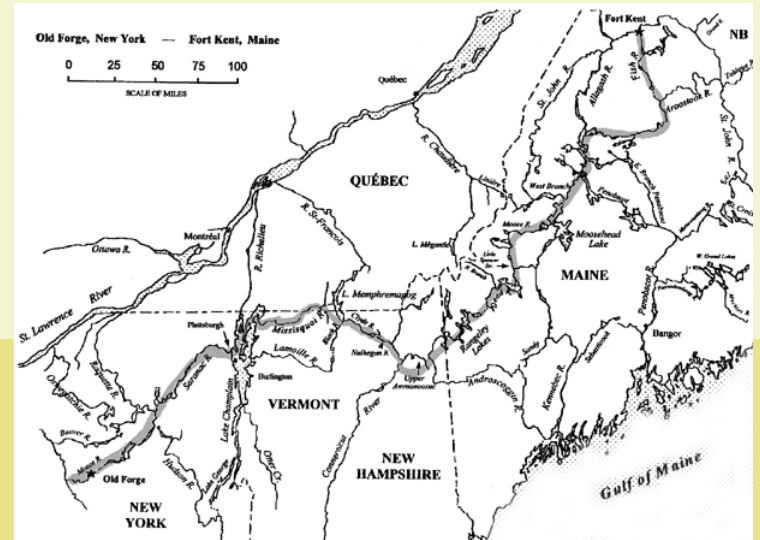


# NEW ENGLAND

## The Northern Forest Canoe Trail

**SITE:** Swanton & Richford, Vermont  
**PARTNER:** Northern Forest Canoe Trail Organization  
**ARTISTS:** **Evan Haynes**, No. Yarmouth, Maine  
**Stephen Dignazio**, Bethlehem, NH  
**Ron Smith**, Bethlehem, NH



- Renew the bonds between people and rivers in the Northern Forest of VT, NH, ME.
- Be a vehicle to explore the art, culture and heritage of the region.
- Enhance opportunities for eco-tourism, sustainable development, education, and river conservation in the region.

# The Northern Forest Artist Residency

**ARTISTS:** **Evan Haynes**, No. Yarmouth, Maine  
**Stephen Dignazio**, Bethlehem, NH  
**Ron Smith**, Bethlehem, NH



# Art

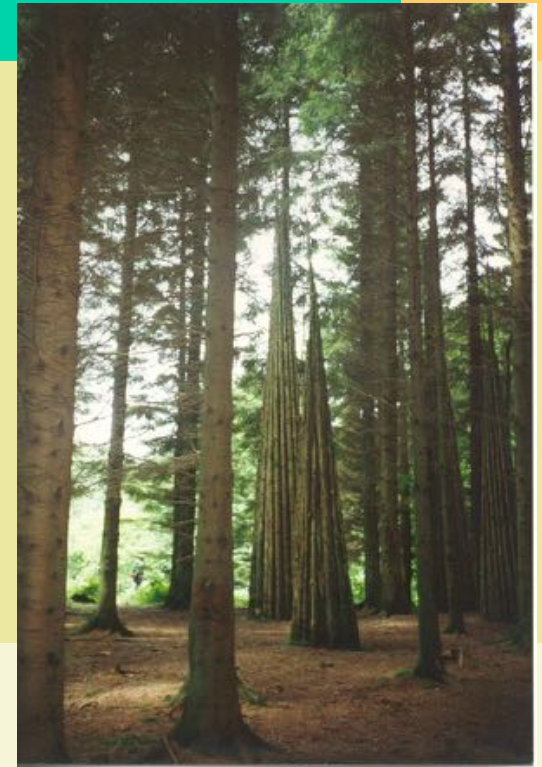
AND COMMUNITY LANDSCAPES

# Why Art on the Trail?

*“Artistic practice in combination with almost any human activity increases the possibility of having depth in that activity.”*

*“Creative Community: The Art of Cultural Development”  
Don Adams and Arlene Goldbard*

- Art is an integrative, multi-disciplinary activity, helping to build constituencies.
- Art is a revelatory process. It raises awareness.
- Art heightens your senses.
- Art is a noun, a verb and a tool.



Art

AND COMMUNITY LANDSCAPES

# Art on the Trail

- **Art as a noun:** Object making, trail “furniture”



# Art on the Trail

- Art as a noun: Urban trails



# Art on the Trail

- **Art as a Verb:** Process, community engagement, social action, eco-artists
- **Art as a Tool:** Heightens perception on the trail, raises awareness within the community



# Art on the Trail

- **SCOPE OF WORK:** Different projects can have different scales and levels of involvement
- **Residencies:** Longer term engagements, multiple partners, artists involved in planning, design and production
- **Project specific:** Short term goals, artists as fabricators, performers



# Evolution of the NFCT Project



**The Missisquoi River, Franklin County, VT**

## **Criteria:**

- Is art on the trail always an appropriate idea? Wilderness vs. culture
- ACL and the NFCT seemed more about people in the landscape, histories of place
- An idea of the Trail as a narrative thread, connecting disparate communities



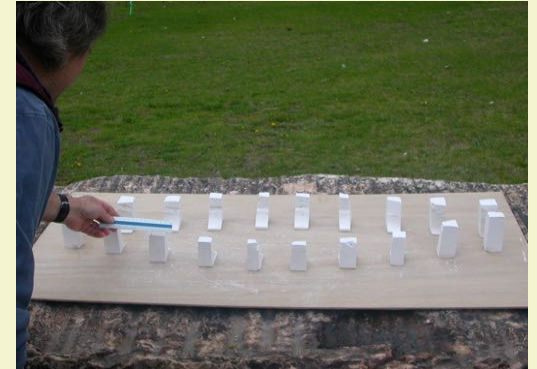
# 3 Ideas



**Paddling on the  
Missisquoi**



**A Community Self-  
Portrait**



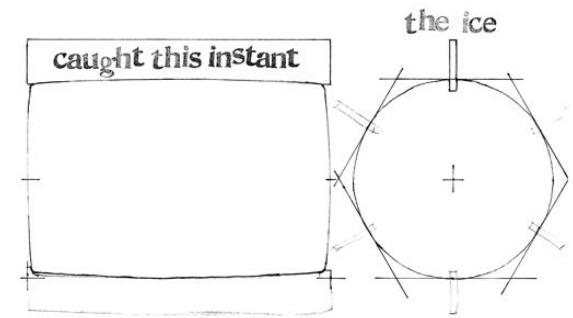
**Swanton, VT  
Marble Mill Park**

## Criteria:

- Creating something for the community of trail users
- Community engagement through hands-on art making, exploring sense of place
- Involving a town in trail related site development, with a site-specific art project

# NEW ENGLAND

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail –  
Swanton, VT



## Dam Warnings

- Floating barrel sculptures will individually turn in the river's current ahead of unmarked dams
- Upstream paddles will present warnings to canoeists, downstream paddles—poems facing pedestrian and vehicle bridges.



# NEW ENGLAND

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail –  
Swanton, VT



## Dam Warnings

- 10 buoys to go across the Missisquoi River at unmarked dam in Swanton, VT
- Replicable project at other dam sites along the Trail

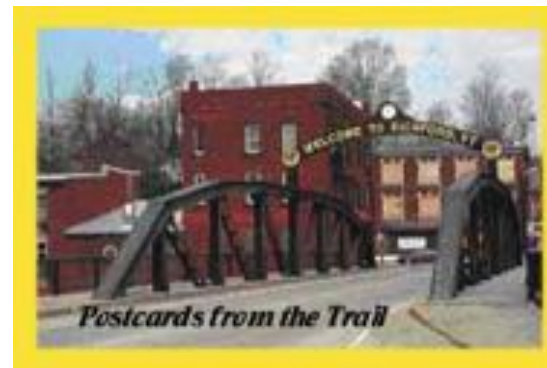


# NEW ENGLAND

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail –  
Richford, VT A Community Self-Portrait

## Postcards from the Trail

- Cameras distributed to community members to photograph the people and places of Richford.
- Photographs exhibited and reprinted as postcards.
- Project could be replicated in other Trail communities.



# NEW ENGLAND

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail –  
Postcards from the Trail  
Richford, VT A Community Self-Portrait



(16) View from  
So. Richford Rd.  
Sneider family's former  
farm silos in distance.  
This is a poignant  
view for me - so pretty,  
but the silos also  
remind me that Vermont's  
landscape is changing and  
many farms have  
disappeared in the  
19 years I've lived here.



# NEW ENGLAND

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail –  
Swanton, VT



## Stone Canoes

- Design workshops looked at incorporation of canoe put-in in park
- Marble sculptures will provide park seating, and gathering places for the public.
- Replicable artwork will create a trail identity marker at other sites along the Canoe Trail.

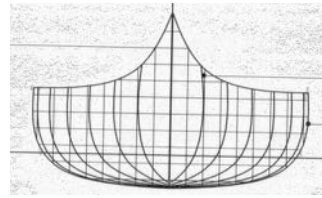


Art

AND COMMUNITY LANDSCAPES

# NEW ENGLAND

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail –  
Swanton, VT



## Stone Canoes



Art

AND COMMUNITY LANDSCAPES

# Working with artists and communities

- Importance of Trail group and artist partnership
- Support from local community
- Commitment from State and local Arts Organizations, also DOT
- Interest from College and University Art Depts.
- Funding for Arts and Conservation together is still problematic for some foundations

