

Barbara Westfall

Transect, 1989

7th Floor Gallery UW-Madison Art Department, Madison, WI

Soil, clay, raku fired

12 ' x 12'

"Transect", is an earth art sculpture created by artist, Barbara Westfall. Westfall shaped over 700 pounds of clay around the surface of a 12 foot mound of soil she built at the Atwood Community Gardens on Madison's near east side. The clay was recycled from the ceramic art studios at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she is a graduate student in art. The clay was allowed to dry and crack naturally outdoors, exposed to wind, rain and varying temperatures during the crisp autumn weather. Erosion and chance played a significant role in how the artwork was developed. After several weeks of collaboration with nature's elements, Westfall removed the hardened, cracked clay pieces and transported them back to the ceramics lab, where they were fired at temperatures over 1,400 degrees. Westfall reassembled the fired ceramic pieces to an indoor soil mound she built in the 7th Floor Gallery in the Art Department at UW-Madison, for display to the public.

Westfall enjoys working jointly with the earth and it's elements, discovering a balance among a multitude of unknowns. It is this collaboration that attracts her to the process. The earth art sculpture will be on display at the 7th Floor Gallery December 6 -14, 1989.

To learn more about this project, and a video, which documents the 20 volunteers who helped build it, contact the artist at bwestfalldesign@gmail.com.