

WHAT DOES A STONE THINK ABOUT?

For Storm King's 2020 season, artist **Martha Tuttle** made the artwork pictured below called, [A stone that thinks of Enceladus](#). Martha's piece is an **installation**: it is comprised of several different parts. The artwork is displayed across eight acres of a large, rolling field at the southern end of Storm King's property.



To make her artwork, she chose boulders and stones from all around Storm King. She placed 13 large boulders together in a field.





Then she took the smaller stones she had gathered and remade them out of glass and marble. She made nearly 200 glass and marble stones!



Martha then stacked the hand-crafted glass and marble stones on top of the boulders, sometimes by themselves and sometimes in stacks or cairns. Watch a video of Martha speaking about her work [here](#).

Cairns are stacks of rocks balanced on top of one another. People from all over the world have made cairns for thousands of years for many different reasons. Cairns sometimes mark the location of an important place, or help show a path, like they sometimes do on hiking trails. You can learn more about cairns at national parks [here](#).



Martha observed the stones she gathered closely and noticed the cracks and moss, their sizes, and how they fit together. She wrote a series of “**meditations**” or thoughts about the stones as she worked. Here are some questions she asked herself:

- What does a stone think about? Does it find itself beautiful?
- What does a stone think we think about?

Now that we know a bit about Martha Tuttle and her project for Storm King, it’s time to head outside and get creative. Supplies you’ll need: a journal, a pencil, and a small container to collect rocks.

Look Closely

Step 1. Observe the stones in your environment. What do you notice? Consider color, size, shape, and surroundings.

Step 2. Record what you see in your journal. Consider drawing a detailed sketch of one rock to help you look closely.

Step 3. Add color and more detail when you’re back indoors.

Collect Rocks and Make Your Cairn

Step 4. Collect a few stones, making sure to only take ones that are easily accessible. Leave ones that are too large or embedded in the ground alone.

Step 5. Can you stack stones to make a cairn? Will your cairn help direct people on a path or show them a certain spot?

Step 6. Sketch your creation and jot down some notes about the cairn-making process. Consider what was challenging and what surprised you.

Write and Reflect

Step 7. How would you answer the questions that Martha Tuttle asked? As a reminder, those questions are:

- What does a stone think about? Does it find itself beautiful?
- What does a stone think we think about?

Key vocabulary words:

Installation

Cairns

Meditations