

I + I = one: Site-specific environmental installations 2006



“Divide & Contain”

11 renewed objects
22 memory reflections
Artists: Michelle Wisner &
Debra Sawyer
Photography:
Michelle Wisner

Artists' Statement

The theme of the biennial I + I = one: recycle+renew+restore lead us on a journey through the memories of a 150 year-old farm. Rummaging through piles of discarded and rusted iron and steel in the form of rebar, angle iron, multiple types of fencing, fence posts and farm implements we recognized these objects as a historic tribute to the farm's mainstay of dairy cattle and crops. It also told us that La Prairie farm has always practiced recycling that, in turn, contributes to its economy.

The discarded metals and objects we found most intriguing were mangled by the plow, rusted out by weather, or antiquated by more modern implements. The memories inherent in each piece had significant connections to the men and women farmers; to the elements of sun, wind and rain; to animals domestic and wild; to the cyclic aspects of growth and harvest; and to the farm's functional design of division and containment.

Today the farm's long stretches of fields grow and harvest wheat, corn and soybeans. The fields are divided by, and, at the same time, connected by, wide grassy and woody paths that also lead to sections of dense woods, overgrown pasture and several pond meadows. We designed and placed our renewed

objects and farm reflections along these paths to signify the notion of “Divide and Contain,” — and to call out the farm's industry and life as a continuous and integral dance with nature.

In order of appearance

Renewed object installations

1. **Avian prefab I**
Oil can and bird nest
2. **Upper nest**
Hemp, beads and fence piece
3. **Containment whirlygig**
Mangled steel, sheepskin, barbed wire, electric fence insulators and cow bones
4. **Pump boy**
Water pump and lifejacket
5. **Backscratching cow mama**
Cow backscratcher, plastic and metal fencing, cow watering piece, other ornaments
6. **Post bent to the sound of the wind**
Steel post, weedwacker string
7. **All weatherman**
8. Angle iron triangle, other iron, plow disk, rebar, weedwacker string, guitar strings.
9. **Avian prefab II & III**
Oil cans and bird nests
10. **Cornbridge**
Hay feeder with corn shoot and reflectives

Memory reflections

1. **House 'capital scroll' detail**
2. **Fence gate detail**
3. **Shack I**
4. **Shack II**
5. **Shack teardown**
6. **Bird nests**
7. **Electric fence insulator**
8. **Aerial view of upper nest (ropescape)**
9. **Pipeline warning**
10. **Backscratching cow mama**
11. **Wheat field**
12. **Single wheat**
13. **Stringing patterns for “All weatherman”**
14. **Fence ratchet**
15. **Mushrooms**
16. **Redwood**
17. **Deer stand in the woods**
18. **Pond I**
19. **Pond II**
20. **Fencing detail**
21. **Bridge ahead**
22. **Bridge reflections on the farm**