

THE ART NEWSPAPER

Andy Goldsworthy to make third work for San Francisco Presidio

British artist is fascinated by US army's long history of tree planting

By Pac Pobric. Web only

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Andy Goldsworthy's tree sliding into the Presidio's Powder Magazine building. Photo: <http://presidio-brat.blogspot.com>

The artist Andy Goldsworthy is creating a new work for the Presidio of San Francisco, the national park that was formerly a military base. The artist will hang a felled tree covered in cracked clay from the ceiling of a building within the park that was once used by the Army to store explosives.

According to the Presidio Trust's website, *Tree Fall* will be "a fully reversible" work installed in the Powder Magazine building, "a small (25 feet by 30 feet) and currently

inaccessible masonry structure”. “The gunpowder room would’ve been a fairly dangerous place to be, so [the work] will have that sense of caution to it,” Goldsworthy says. Due to be completed by the end of August, *Tree Fall* will be the artist’s third project in the park, following *Spire*, 2008, and *Wood Line*, 2011.

“What I find so fascinating about the Presidio is that, in the heart of this military machine, there was a huge planting programme,” Goldsworthy says, referring to the fact that the park’s 300-acre forest was planted by the US military between 1886 and 1900. “They had quite a sophisticated sense of landscape,” he says. “They read the landscape in the way that sculptors do—or at least the way I do.”

Great care is being taken to preserve the historic structure. “The new ceiling and structural frame will be anchored to an existing non-historic concrete slab and have no attachment points to the historic masonry portions of the structure,” the Presidio Trust’s website says. “The remainder of the building will be untouched except for the removal and safe storage of the interior door, which will be replaced upon removal of the artwork. The installation has been designed by a structural engineer in order to avoid harm to the existing structure, and includes no artificial lighting.”