

Global Adviser

TRAVEL FOOD GADGETS STYLE LEISURE

Green and pleasant land
The artist on the outside, Cow Dung
on Glass, 2007, on the inside, at the
Yorkshire Sculpture Park



SCULPTURE

Natural-Born Artist. Sculptor Andy Goldsworthy's dirty work is a breath of fresh air

A YORKSHIRE FARM WAS WHERE, from the age of 13, British artist Andy Goldsworthy first learned his trade: how to use a shovel, skin a hare, build a dry-stone wall. It's also where he saw a painting in the lines of a plow on the land, a sculpture in a haystack, and where he realized that the idyllic landscape of rural England is one fashioned by sweat and privilege and kept

green by death and dung. So, even if over the last 25 years Goldsworthy, now 50, has traveled far from home (and his fame has spread even further), there is no more fitting home than the Yorkshire Sculpture Park for the biggest-ever exhibition of his work, old and new, which runs until Jan. 6, 2008.

Straddling 2 sq km of verdant gardens and farmland,

much of it a former lordly estate, the park boasts several galleries and a stunning outdoor collection of modern sculpture, including some fine Barbara Hepworths and Henry Moores. It's also home to 137 sheep, for whom Goldsworthy has built a sheepfold containing a massive stone slab on which human visitors can lie to create "rain shadows." Elsewhere on the estate he has raised a series of dry-stone wall enclosures where giant fallen oaks hang. Paradoxically, for all the open air, it's Goldsworthy's new indoor works that are the fresher. "A building, no matter how beautiful, is a dead space,"

says the sculptor, whose solution has been to carry the outdoors inside. One room is now a cocoon of coppiced sweet chestnut, another is clad in crackled local clay. In a third hangs an exquisite 12-m-wide filigree curtain made of 10,000 horse-chestnut stalks pinned together with thorns. High on a hill overlooking the park, all but a snaking ribbon of picture window has been covered in cow dung. "It works like the landscape itself," Goldsworthy says. "From a distance you think that's beautiful. Get up close and you think, Hmm." www.ysp.co.uk —BY MICHAEL BRUNTON