

Environmental Artwork Completed in Des Moines

Greenwood Pond: Double Site, by New York-based environmental artist Mary Miss, is the latest installation in an 81-acre park at the Des Moines Art Center. For the 6.5-acre site, Miss arranged bridges, a pavilion, walkways, seating, and an observation tower around a pond to offer visitors different vantage points on the water.

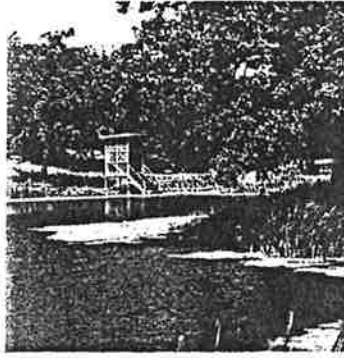
Working with a local garden club, science center, and environmental groups, Miss enhanced an existing pond used by the community for ice-skating and summer recreation. "The way you can use water to look at the integration between the built and natural environment is very compelling to me," Miss explains.

Miss's path surrounds the pond, at one point leading to a ramped boardwalk that drops to the water's surface. A bridge incorporates a seating area from which steps lead down to the water's edge. Another walkway leads to a 15-foot-long

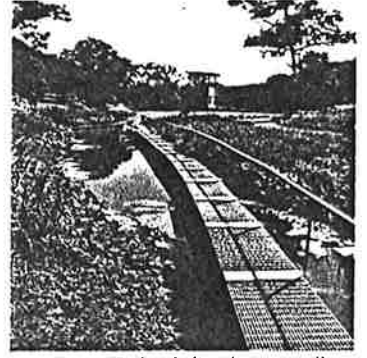
concrete trough that forms "a cut into the water," bringing the surface of the water to eye level. A steel-grated walkway takes visitors over the pond's surface along a path that will become a corridor through cattails and bulrushes when the vegetation matures. In summer, removable walls transform a skaters' pavilion into a picnic shelter, and its arched roof pattern is repeated by a series of trellises that are inspired by local agrarian forms.

Miss is best known for the park she designed with Susan Child at South Cove in New York's Battery Park City, and her work has often addressed the relationship of water and land. *Ropes/Shore*, her 1969 installation at Ward's Island in the East River, for example, enclosed the southern shore of the island with ropes anchored at 20-foot intervals.

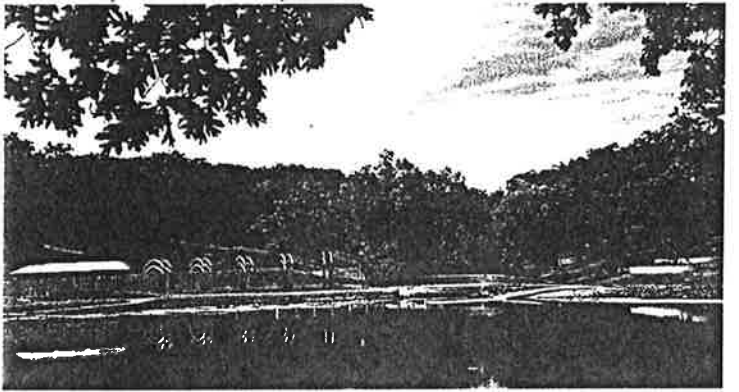
The Des Moines Art Center's parklike setting includes artworks by Richard Serra and Bruce Nauman. *Greenwood Pond: Double Site* will be officially dedicated on October 19.—Heidi Lundecker



OBSERVATION TOWER: Overlooks pond.



STEEL WALK: Bulrush-lined, eventually.



PAVILION AS METAPHOR: Skating shelter and wooden arches recall agrarian forms.