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Greenmachine: Art, Technology and Nature

by Andrea Kirsh

Greenmachine

The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education May 6 to October 30, 2007

Miyamori creates rubbings from tree bark. She conceived of this work, "Here and There" as an exchange between the Schuylkill Center site and one in Japan, and the locations were linked by simulcast for the opening, which included a percussion performance -- an event I missed, alas.

She did rubbings here and in a forest in Ibaraki, Japan, then took the Philadelphia rubbings to Ibaraki and brought the Ibaraki rubbings here. She has installed them out-of doors on selected trees at each site, and four days after the installation the delicate rice-paper already showed signs of exposure to the weather, with the paper settling into the bark of the trees. It is organic material, so will break down and become part of the forest floor, following the natural order of decay leading to new life.

The notion of exchange was probably made clear through the performance and simulcast (a video recording is soon to be on display in the media lab, indoors in the main building). That exchange wasn't apparent from the out-doors evidence, but the paper-wrapped and tagged trees made for a lyrical intervention along one of the marked paths, and the knowledge that the piece would be absorbed into that landscape was a poetic reminder of the cycle of nature.

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