

2013

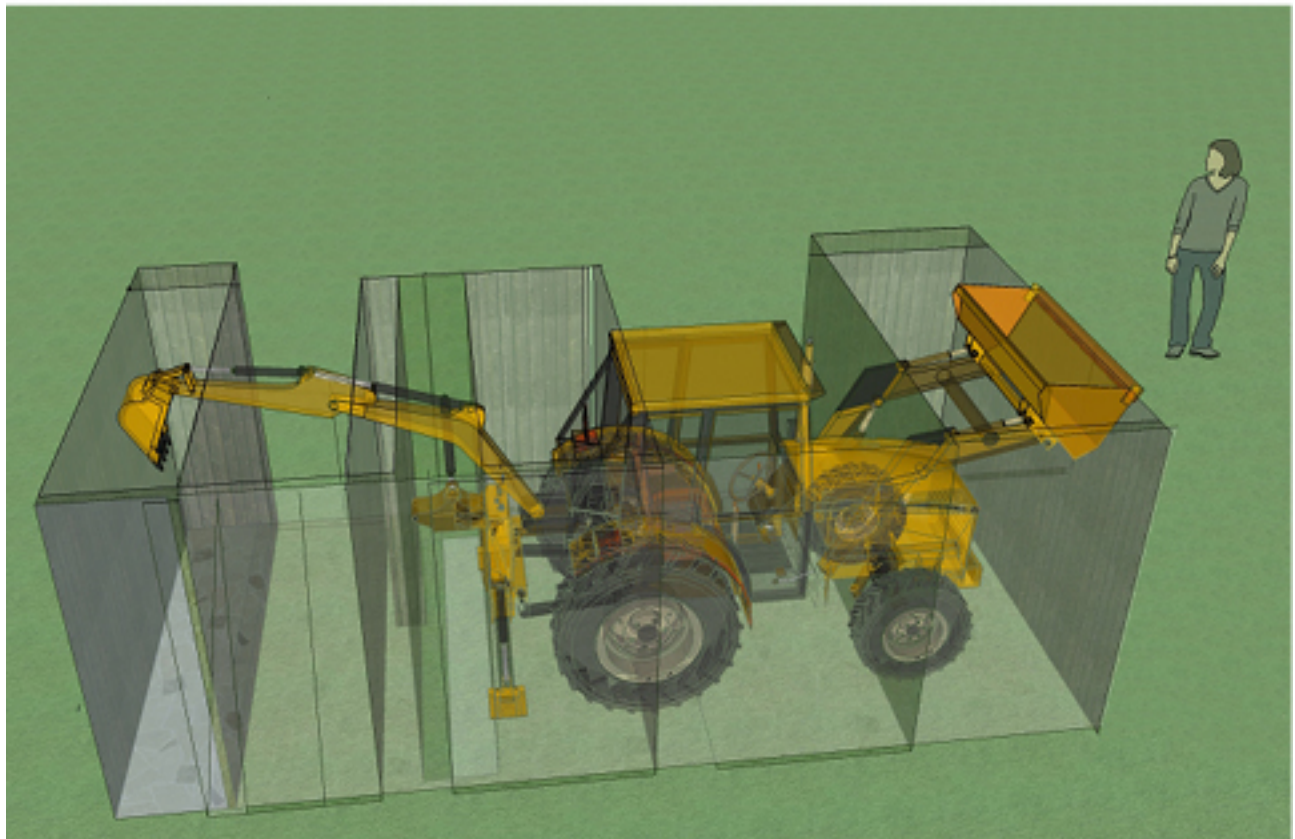
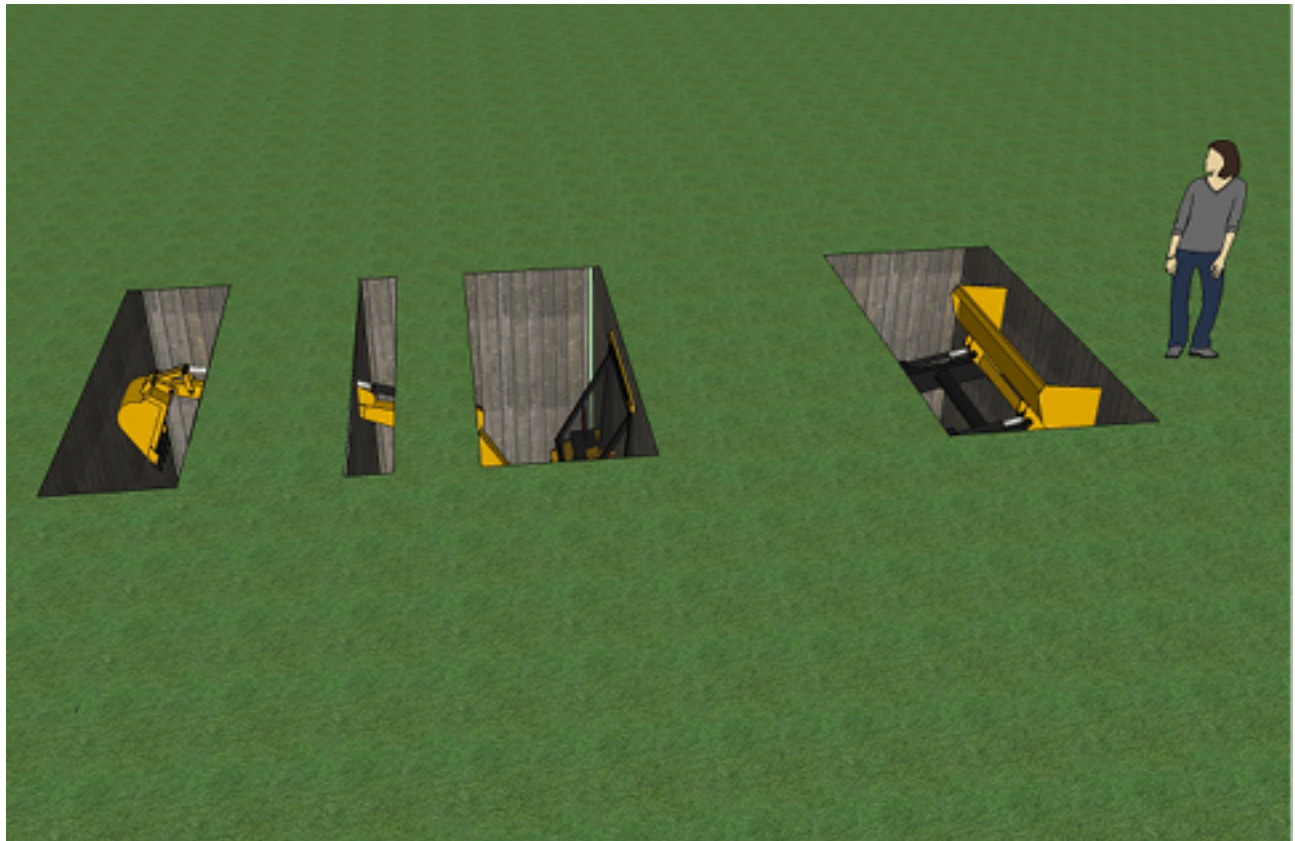
# A Proverbial Machine in the Garden

Dynahoe tractor, concrete, earth, landscape, steel grating  
66 x 28 x 12 feet

Storm King Art Center, NY



Reference: George Inness. *The Lackawanna Valley*. c. 1855



Preparatory drawings

The notion of a ‘machine in the garden’ is a cultural symbol that underlies the tension between the pastoral ideal and the rapid and sweeping transformations wrought by industrialized technology. Brooks’s work considers this ongoing conflicted relationship between the individual and the built and natural environment.

Speaking to Storm King’s past—as an agricultural site—and present—as a carefully sculpted pastoral environment—*A Proverbial Machine in the Garden* addresses questions of how humans use, consume, and perceive of the natural world.

Brooks’s piece is subterranean, and invisible from afar. It is designed to be experienced—as a natural landscape or topography would be—by viewers walking across it.

—Excerpted from the Storm King Art Center press release













Photographs by Jerry L. Thompson



Photograph by Jerry L. Thompson



The Storm King museum building and the sculpture itself sit atop manmade hills. Photographs by Jerry L. Thompson



**DAVID BROOKS**  
**& Paraphernalia in the Garden, 2012** 10 ft x 10 ft granite block, concrete, earth, landscaping and staining, approximately 12 x 4 x 2 ft.

**STORM KING ART CENTER**

David Brooks' Paraphernalia in the Garden completes a triad, complete with headdress and feet and hands. It has been built in an old Storm King track landscape. The "machine in the garden" is a cultural object that evokes the landscape and the rural and working landscape as well as the industrial landscape, speaking to Storm King's past as an agricultural and rural landscape as a carefully sculpted park of modernism—the work of a man of letters, a man of letters, a man of letters, and a man of letters. The built landscape is a landscape of both farming and landscape, a landscape that helped to build Storm King's modern landscape. It is the landscape of the machine in an urban landscape of the city, a landscape that is designed to be experienced by visitors walking through it, to step by step, just as one would in a landscape.

1 1-17 New York State Thruway  
 2 Paved slip path and area  
 3 Former gravel pit, used in constructing 1-17  
 4 Museum Hill and Visitor Center

*in the Garden of Storm King (NY) when there is no farm.*

Interpretive signage with aerial image of Storm King grounds from 1957, when it was still an active farm.