

Long, Richard. "Biopic: Richard Long." *Modern Painters*, September 2015, p. 37.

**BIOPIC**



## Richard Long

The story behind an artwork,  
in the artist's own words

*BATTERY PARK* IS the first artwork I ever made in New York. In 1969 I was on the way to Ithaca for the exhibition "Earth Art" at the Andrew Dickson White Museum of Art at Cornell. I met John Gibson at a bar, and I showed him a few small black-and-white photographs of landscape works I had made in England, which I was carrying around in an Henri Wintermans cigar tin. John liked them and offered me a show of these pieces at the Gibson Gallery the next week. He suggested that, for the exhibition, I take my small prints to a poster shop and have them blown up. Printed and mounted on poster board, they comprised my first show. John suggested I go down to Battery Park to make the work pictured here.

*Battery Park*,  
1969.  
Photograph  
mounted  
on foamcore,  
30 x 40 in.

I dug up a long rectangle and made several undulations inside it. Using the excess soil, I formed a mound that I covered with sod.

Early on, I realized the world outside the studio was more interesting than what was going on inside it. People have been making impressions in the earth for thousands of years; in general, my work takes its place among many other man-made marks. I explore a rich territory between the land art of monuments and machine-made earthworks and, at the other extreme, of leaving only footprints or temporary traces of passage. MP

*Richard Long's work is on view  
September 11 through October 24  
at Sperone Westwater Gallery  
in New York.*