

Date: April 15, 2008
El Presenter: Mary Alice Dwyer
Artwork Title: Jacksonville Series No. 10
Year Created: 1974
Artist: Melvin Schuler (1924)

Five most essential aspects of this work of art:

1. Melvin Schuler tries to cooperate with nature in line, shape and form. His work tends to be large-scale, majestic, totemic in form and conducive to contemplation. This work was done in three sections. Schuler says, "Nature directs."
2. Created with recycled, old-growth redwood (preserving nature); covered with copper (protecting from nature's elements).
3. Crafted copper in the overlapping technique used to cover the hulls of American Clipper ships. The copper is cut and placed shingle-like and hammered fast with bronze nails.
4. Applied a cold substance over it which, when dry, resembles lichen on trees.
5. The L.A. Times says, "There is primordial strength and beauty about Melvin Schuler's massive sculpture. His unique wood and metal sculptures are a highly developed form of elemental art."

These are the questions I would use when speaking with visitors about this object:

1. What do you see here? What materials did the sculptor use? Why?
2. Describe the shapes. Are some repeated, some different? Carefully, walk around and look at the sides and back. Describe the lines you see. What do the lines add?
3. How did the artist use texture here? Is it important to this work of art?
4. Do you like this piece of art? Why or why not?
5. Why was it placed in this particular gallery? What is the artist saying to us?

Which tour would you use this object?

Learning to Look

About the artist:

Melvin Schuler is professor emeritus at Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA. He received his BA and MFA from California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, CA and studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, Denmark.

A long-time friend of Morris Graves, "The Melvin Schuler Sculpture Garden" is one of seven galleries at the Morris Graves Museum of Art in Eureka, CA.