

JO WOOD - BROWN

PERFORMANCE SCULPTURE

1982-1985

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Plaster, the main element in these works, sets up, or hardens over a period of time. Walking Spiral #1, Making Line, and Ochre Foundations I and II are all pieces that are performed during the 20 to 30 minutes that it takes for plaster to change from a liquid to a solid. Each work records its own event by breaking-up into fragmented sculptures. In Pier 34, grass seed is planted in an abandoned pier and within time flourished and died. The locations for these works are urban and often deal with neglected or run down sites, but also include venues such as Experimental Intermedia and 8BC where performance art was taking hold in the 1980's in New York City. The artist movements running, walking, leaping and pouring were trapped in the plaster, through these routine gestures that could be broken up and taken home, the work became universal and timeless.

*Walking Spiral #1*

Elaine Summers Experimental Intermedia, New York City

November 12-13, 1982

The piece begins as 150 pounds of pigmented plaster is poured into a six foot earth circle which is surrounded by gravel. The spiral is drawn into the plaster as it changes from a liquid to a solid. Tools made by the artist are used to create the spiral. The sequence of tools is evolutionary beginning with a stone knapped spear, followed by a cultivating or ploughing tool made of two hammer handles and an axe handle hafted together, ending with a hammer and chisel. The line gets deeper and wider and more difficult to form as it reaches the center of the spiral; the performance ends. The piece is lifted and breaks apart, the fragments are the sculpture.









*Making Line*

Art Via, New York City

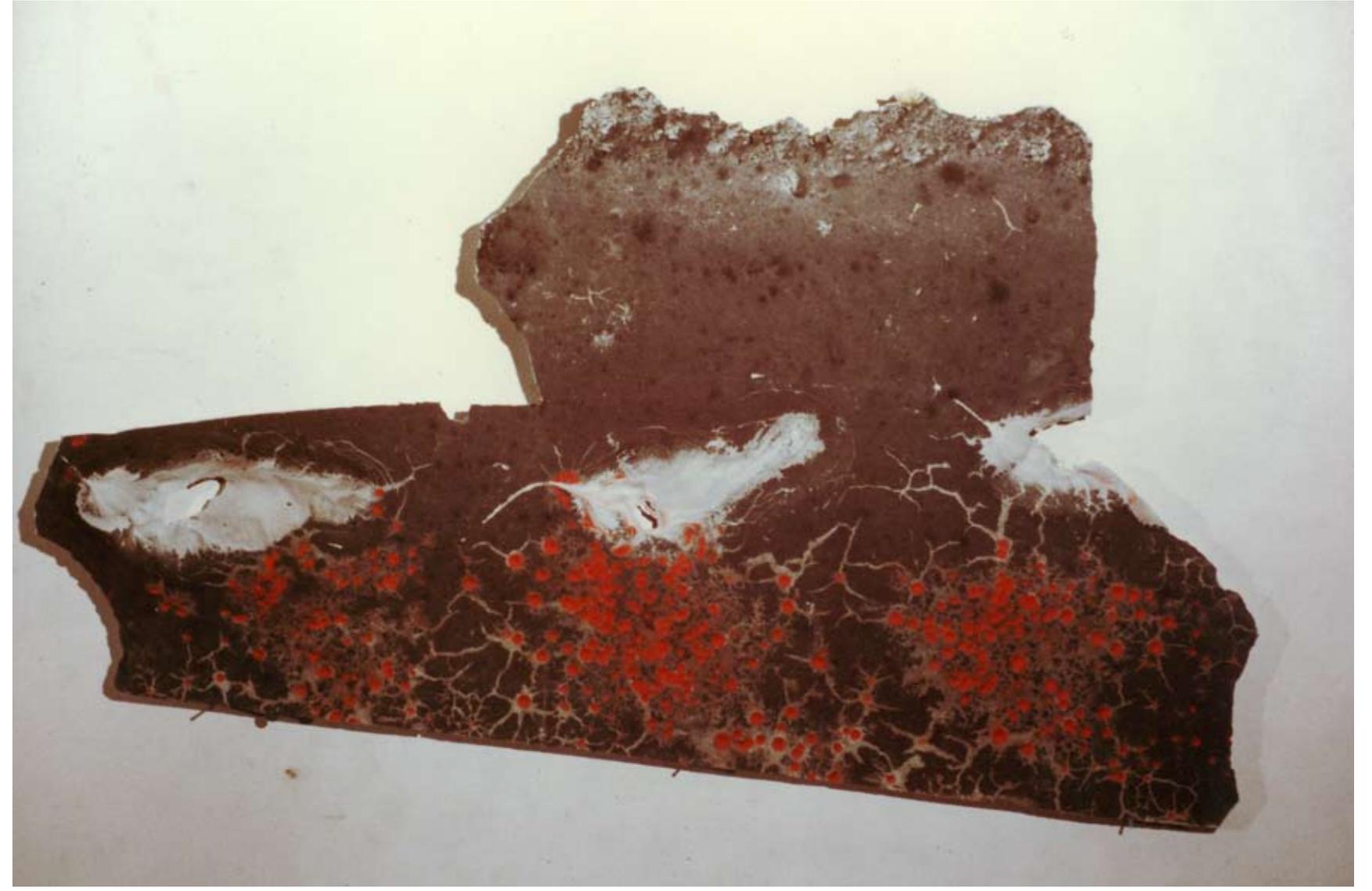
October 9, 1983

Performed on a rooftop using the pitch of the roof as a natural incline, and earth as a barrier for the plaster, four hundred pounds of liquid plaster is poured to form a fifty foot line. The line is broken up into sculpture.









*Pier 34*  
Spring Street Pier, New York City  
Summer 1983

Introducing a living element into a decomposing space, Pier 34, implants the next natural process in the cycle of growth.

The piece is executed at Pier 34 in Manhattan and consisted of fertilizing and planting grass seed in a room in an abandoned and exposed building.

This piece was covered in the January 1984 issue of Stern Magazine.





*Ochre Foundations I and II*

A vacant lot, 8th Street between Avenues B and C, New York City

October 13, 1984

8BC Nightclub, New York City

October 28, 1984

Ochre Foundations takes place indoors and outdoors in the same location, (8th Street between Avenues B and C on the Lower East Side). Ochre Foundations I outdoors, begins when 400 pounds of plaster and dry pigments are mixed and poured into a 10' x 10' shallow trench dug into the earth. After the performance the recorded surface is broken up. Ochre Foundations II indoors, takes place at 8BC performance space; fragments from the outdoor work are used as a barrier for freshly poured plaster. The piece begins as a new foundation is held together by the old.

*OCHRE FOUNDATIONS I*







*OCHRE FOUNDATIONS II*







