

1 + 1 = ONE



**INSTALLATIONS BY PAIRS OF
ARTISTS AT LAPRAIRIE FARM**

2004

OVERVIEW



I + I = one is a unique regional art event in which pairs of artists collaboratively create outdoor installations. These environmental works respond to a particular outdoor place, stimulate the senses, and inspire thought and dialogue.

The event began when visitors to Andrea Peterson's papermaking/printing and Jon Hook's wood-fired pottery art studios exclaimed at the beauty of the surrounding gardens and natural meadows. In response, Hook Paper Pottery initiated the first *I + I = one* event in 2001 on their 11-acre farm north of LaPorte.

After much discussion, Jon and Andrea decided to share their happy fortune of place by inviting five pairs of artists to create site-specific installation art on the land by their studios, thus stimulating collaborations and new directions. They chose artists, both established and emerging, who ordinarily would not create outdoor installations, hoping to see the influence both of the natural environment

and of collaborative interaction in the finished pieces.

The 2001 show was a great success, and Hook Paper Pottery repeated the show in 2002, both times with ten artists creating five installations. Looking beyond 2002, the founders decided to make *I + I = one* a biennial event.

A chance meeting with Clifford Peterson of nearby LaPrairie Farm led to a new site that would facilitate expansion of the event in 2004. The nearly 400-acre farm offered an array of landscapes that range from open fields to shaded pathways, from grassy hillsides to wooded groves, from antique buildings to naturalized ponds.

Given the new site and the active support of the Lubeznik Art Center in Michigan City, Andrea Peterson led a curatorial team that invited 20 artists from Indiana and four other Midwestern states to create ten sites around the LaPrairie farmstead or along a half-mile pathway from the 1854 farmhouse to the northern fields and woods.

The artists created a stunning group of works that included cascading waters projected as sound and light inside an empty grain bin; a hand-dyed ribbon of silk and mulberry paper "leaves" woven into a wire fence; a place among the pines for listening to stories and music while viewing the landscape through picture frames; shiny appliances reflecting earth, air, fire, and water along a gully path; a brick and sunflower labyrinth; and the transformation of the farm brush pile into a village of nests and igloos.

The 2004 *I + I = one* attracted both city sophisticates who might not normally venture to the country in search of culture, as well as many locals who rarely if ever would visit a museum or gallery. The show ran two and a half weeks, covering three weekends in July and August, and attracted press coverage and about three hundred visitors, primarily from
(continued)

(cont'd. from previous page)

LaPorte and its adjoining counties as well as the Chicago metropolitan area.

Storytelling for all ages and a concert in the pines created the atmosphere of a summer arts festival in an idyllic location, the type of experience for which people travel great distances. People would return time and time again to see the *1 + 1 = one* installations in literally a new light, to walk the blos-

soming labyrinth, and to hear the stories and music.

Visitors enjoyed a low-key, noncommercial atmosphere in which they could make a personal connection between the natural and agricultural settings and the various works of collaborative installation art. *1 + 1 = one* in the summer of 2004 was a celebration of creativity, environment, and community.

LaPrairie Farm



EXHIBITION DATES

2006

July 29–30

August 5–6
12–13

WEEKENDS

NOON TO

DUSK

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday

July 29

noon to dusk

LaPrairie Farm

2215 E. 350 North
LaPorte, IN 46350

SITE 1 *FRAGMENTS— COME INTO THE PEACEFUL WOODS*

Robert Stanley with Kathleen Zmuda



An installation that revolves around perceiving, picturing, journeying, stories, nature, and expression—the fragments from which we make meaning in our lives.

Remnants of stone structures are scattered about. On these shards are bits of stories and poetry.

Floating frames create random fragments of sky, field, and woods. A 4 x 4 foot artwork, itself made up of scraps of an artist and his vision, contains a partial view of the field behind it.

Participants, as they look around, can take in all these fragments, sensing what is around them and in them. They can read, and add to if they wish, the comments of others which are kept in a box.

All the ones plus ones plus ones add up to a rich, but tentative, One.