

rites of passage

"Rites of Passage" is an immersive installation inviting viewers to consider the nature of social interactions, relationships, and the underlying structures that shape human engagement. The work reveals how fleeting encounters and subtle bonds carry ideas and meaning, highlighting the delicate balance that sustains social systems.

Thousands of burdock burrs are meticulously affixed to a steel frame, forming an oversized threshold that encourages both passage and reflection. The textured surface, where organic matter meets structural precision, evokes the interconnectedness of all living systems. The burrs illustrate how ideas, relationships, and influence spread unpredictably, yet remain guided by an intrinsic order that connects and sustains. Their capacity to cling becomes a metaphor for the dissemination of ideas and relationships—both deliberate and accidental—revealing tensions between intention and chance, growth and decay, stability and flux.

As viewers move through or pause before the passage, they enact a quiet exchange: an intimate meditation on connection, distance, and the evolution of identity. The installation suggests that identity is shaped and redefined through social engagement; that our choices to connect or withdraw influence who we become.

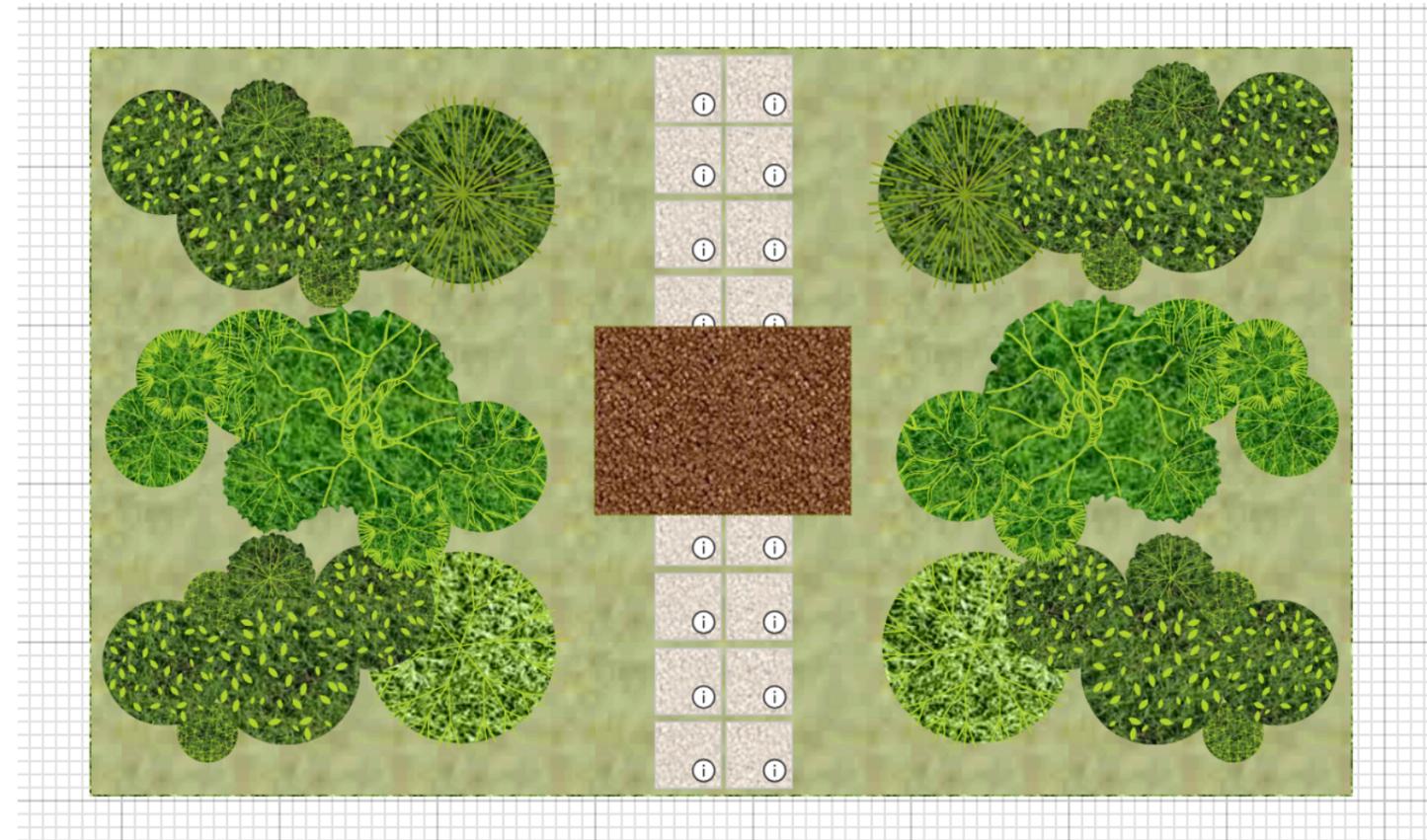


Image Description: Garden Layout.



Image Description: Proposed Installation.

Suggested Plants:



Image Description: Burdock Burrs (seasonal), Concrete Slab, White Decorative Stones.

The canopy-like structure will be formed by tensioning galvanized wire across the steel frame's flat planes. Once installed, this provides a durable yet lightweight surface for attaching approximately 60-70 pounds of burdock burrs. Using burdock burrs as metaphors for attachment and exchange, the work visualises the porous boundaries of how identity is shaped through entanglement, vulnerability, and the traces we leave, charting the subtle topographies of encounter through which selfhood and otherness co-constitute one another.

The installation will stand alone within its environment, its isolation emphasizing introspection and the singularity of the human experience. A pathway of concrete slabs leads the viewer forward, creating a clear but deliberate route through the space.

The hardness and permanence of the concrete stand in contrast to the delicate, burdock burrs around and above, evoking the tension between human construction and natural process, while addressing the fragments of connection—fragments that are structured, deliberate, fickle, yet finite—echoing the accessibility and barriers inherent in communication itself.

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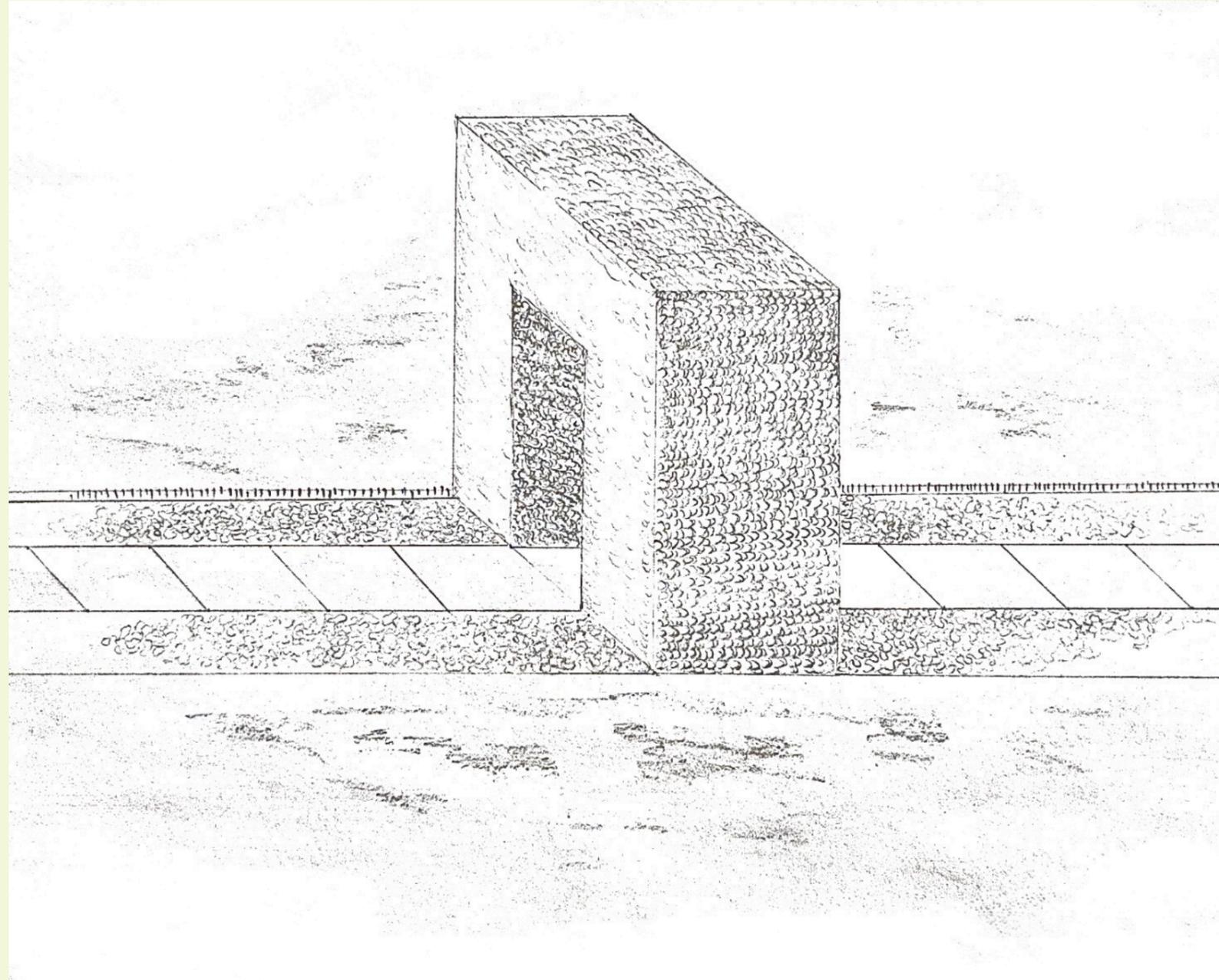


Image Description: *Side Profile of Proposed Installation, with Decorative Rocks and Concrete Path.*

Though made of burdock burrs, the installation recalls a boxwood hedge, symbolizing humanity's impulse to shape disorder into symmetry and to regulate individuality within collective norms. Yet its material also maps sensitivity: the burrs' tiny hooks cling and prick, revealing how systems of order depend on fragile points of contact — a delicate tension between connection and control.



rites of passage — TECHNICAL SKETCH OF FINAL INSTALLATION, SIDE PROFILE

