

Tørskind Gravel Pit

Robert Jacobsen, Jean Clareboudt
Landscape Sculpture



The landscape of Tørskind Gravel Pit



cover photo: Mads Frødsøe



Frenchman Jean Clareboudt (1944-1997) studied at a number of Art Academies. He met Robert Jacobsen in 1962 and became a sort of unofficial pupil of his. Clareboudt's art landscape works are popular throughout the world, and when Robert Jacobsen was asked to transform the gravel pit it was only natural that Clareboudt's name should come up. Clareboudt took on general responsibility for planning the installation and five of the works are by him, with Robert Jacobsen contributing four. The sculptures are made from natural materials such as concrete, iron, stone and wood – ranging right from 400-year-old oak to modern laminated boards.

Robert Jacobsen (1912-1993) began working with wood in the 1930s. In the 1940s he began sculpting in stone, but when he moved to France in 1947 iron became his material of choice. Robert Jacobsen wished to express the lightness of sculpture by "drawing lines in the air". His later works were more close-packed, and he used this form to expose opposites: positive against negative, raw structure contra fine polished etc. In the 1950s, and as a reaction to constructivism, Robert Jacobsen made his renowned series of "dolls" from rubbish such as bicycle chains and screws. From 1969 to his death Robert Jacobsen lived in Egtved near Tørskind Gravel Pit.

Robert Jacobsen, Jean Clareboudt Landscape Sculpture in Tørskind Gravel Pit is located at the south western edge of Vejle Valley. The valley's broad low-lying area results from polar meltwater and heavy glaciers. The River Vejle's original winding course is still shown by the alder trees that follow the river's former course.

The area has been inhabited since the Stone Age. In fact, there are still signs of the 10th century Viking bridge across the valley at Ravning. It can be seen as a reconstruction of the bridge's spans on the valley's north and south side

Robert Jacobsen, Jean Clareboudt Landscape Sculpture is owned by Vejle City Council. The project was initiated as part of Franco-Danish cultural collaboration project "Kulturforetødet Danmark-Frankrig" in 1987/88.

The landscape sculptures were financed by donations and services from a number of funds, companies and private individuals. Following five years of work, the park was opened to the public on July 1 1991 by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark and His Royal Highness the Prince Consort. The landscape sculpture attracts about 100,000 visitors every year.

Did you know?

That the landscape sculpture is themed around the passage of the sun across the sky during the course of a day. Light enters into a dramatic dialogue with the sculptures, meaning that they take on quite different appearances in different seasons and at different times of the day.

Address:
Tørskindvej 98 A
6040 Egtved, Denmark

- The landscape sculpture is always open.
- Visitors of the landscape sculpture park do so entirely at their own risk.



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Sculptures by Jean Clareboudt

1. Skrå i højden / Solopgang

(Sloping Height / Sunrise) Is prominently positioned at the top of the hill to the left of the entrance. Two iron girders rise up from the base in a taught V-shape clamping a large wedge-shaped stone. It's as if the two enormous arms are about to snap shut sending the stone shooting into the heavens - in the same way that we see the sun sent up into the heavens in the East every morning.

2. Fremspring (Overhang) Consists of three horizontal iron gir-

ders which extend beyond the top of the slope. At the end of the girders is a large granite stone, and balanced on top of the stone at a dangerously sharp angle is a large square sheet of iron that can receive celestial bodies and send them on their way out into space – like a springboard for the sun's onward journey across the sky.

3. Opspring (Rebound) Consists of four very long iron girders that follow the slope all the way down, and which bend at the bottom such that they resemble a large shovel that seems to swing up. Perhaps it's the sun that's thrown



6. Saturn's Hair

down to the sculpture "Sloping Base".

4. Udsigt (View) Consists of three iron girders in the form of a triangle. The triangle symbolizes spirituality, while the area's circular shape signifies infinity heaven and cosmos.

5. Skrå i bunden / Solnedgang (Sloping Base / Sunset) Is in a little gorge to the west of the site behind the small Tycho Brahe sculpture. Even though the iron girder is at an angle it seems at peace as it held in place by the surrounding stones and the slo-



7. Tycho Brahe

pes of the gorge. It signifies a peaceful resolution – a sunset in the West.

Sculptures by Robert Jacobsen

6. Saturns hår (Saturn's Hair) Left of the entrance, consists of five spruce logs which follow the gradient of the slope and are laid out in a fan shape. They recall the parts of a sundial pointing towards source of light – the sun. Are the five spruce logs a reference to the five rings observed around Saturn? The log's branches may refer to the title: Saturn's Hair.



8. Tycho Brahe

7. Tycho Brahe Is located in the middle of the square at the entrance to Tørskind Gravel Pit. The three long upward reaching pipes radiate power and dynamism. They are temporarily ensnared by a framework of horizontal and vertical forms. The sculpture recalls a launch ramp with large canon barrels, but the title refers to the famous Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe (1546-1601) who performed the most precise measurements of heavenly bodies of his age.

8. Tycho Brahe Is on the slope immediately in front of the entrance



9. Tørskind-man

ce. Tycho Brahe's brother, Knud Brahe, built Engelsholm Castle on the other side of Vejle Valley.

9. Tørskind-mand (Tørskind Man) Stands on the slope to the right of the entrance and looks down across the square and commands views of Vejle Valley in the opposite direction. The sculpture consists of a solid rectangular iron frame, which forms the body, supported by two legs and an extra third. Three old pieces of oak permeate the body at various angles. They can be understood as limbs.

1. Sloping Height / Sunrise

2. Overhang

3. Rebound

4. Viewt

5. Sloping Base / Sunset

Overview

