



## Creature Discomforts a geography of symbols

( Site 2 )

a collaborative project

created as part of the  
Derouin Foundation's 2005

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[www.fondationderouin.com](http://www.fondationderouin.com)

Bonnie Baxter: multimedia visual artist

Michel Beaudry: sculptor

Michael Oesterle: composer

Christine Unger: writer, visual artist



## Creature Discomforts *a geography of symbols*

Four artists, we stand on a steep incline of land with three great rocks forming a dramatic trinity. Although it is already richly inhabited with flora and fauna, we are challenged to express ourselves with minimal disturbance to their survival. From our first steps on the site our instincts to ameliorate discomfort and establish domain make the extent of our challenge manifest. We are battling impulses which were deeply embedded in our social system by baroque Europe's reformation ideals and proto-scientific zeal for codification – to name a thing is to know a thing is to own a thing. Now, as we reshape the land, we strive for impermanence with a gentle hand. We send surrogates, symbols that will not be perturbed by mosquitoes or black flies: 4 heads (us), three markers for the human spirit (horse (mind), boar (body), pole lady (spirit)), pyramids (aspiration), bowls (containment), and one chi-chi doggie guide to watch over the site while intermittent sounds and voices keep the "other" present in our minds. And though we define our artificial geography with sparkling bags of blue water, contained reminders of long forgotten ocean crossings, the changing light beneath the leafy canopy randomly shifts their perceived boundaries, reminding us that time, observed or not, mediates all symbols, all meanings.

Christine Unger  
Agora 2 / 2005

