



Paper, Earth: An Installation with Steven Siegel

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What are a sculptor's tools? If you're Steven Siegel, they are many. Hammers and nails, jigsaws, wire clippers, and Exact-o knives, shovels and wheelbarrows, levels and ladders and T-squares.

Then the wind and rain, the billions of microorganisms grinding up the soil, the fungus, the leaves and roots, the earth itself. And, of course, most essential of all, the willing hands of the more than one hundred volunteers who answered the apprentice's call — students and teachers, and guides, overseers, and members of the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, Massachusetts, site of sculptor Steven Siegel's newest installation, *Big, with rift*.

On an April morning, Steven first meets with Nick Capasso, DeCordova's Senior Curator, and Nina Gara Bozicnik, Koch Curatorial Fellow, to plan the two-week installation. Afterwards, we walk down a forested slope until we stand at the edge of a nineteenth-century stone foundation.

The stone wall drops seven feet to a mud floor covered with leaves and early-season plants, several trees rising into the canopy. Surveying the site, Steven is already spinning out ideas, imagining walls of paper interacting with the architecture of the long-gone barn.