

CLOSE-LOOKING EXERCISE



Katy Schimert, *Armored Landscapes*, 1994
Sheet metal, installation size variable, purchased with funds in
honor of Morgan Leger Rosenberg, Class of 2009, 2008.13.5a-e

CLOSE-LOOKING EXERCISE: KATY SCHIMERT

Look closely: Examine the artwork closely.

Investigate: Take about 10–15 minutes to write down and/or discuss your observations. Here are some things to think about to help you get started:

- What does this sculpture resemble? What about it looks natural or unnatural?
- Consider the title of this artwork: *Armored Landscapes*. What associations do you think the artist wants you to make with this title?
- Think about the material the artist used to construct these sculptures: sheet metal. How does or doesn't sheet metal relate to the natural environment? Sheet metal is often used in construction work. What do you think about an inexpensive construction material being used for fine art?
- This sculptural landscape is made out of geometric forms. In what ways do geometry and pattern relate to the natural world?
- Imagine you are able to walk around this sculpture, look inside it, or even re-arrange it. How would that experience change how you understand this artwork?

Explain your ideas about the artwork, including how you are understanding it and why. What are you seeing that leads you to those ideas? Back up your ideas with visual evidence from the artwork. Ask yourself and others: What do you see that makes you say that?

Refer back to the artwork and look closer. What more can you find?

Reflect: What have you discovered from looking closely and writing about and/or discussing the artwork with others? What did you discover about how you unpack and understand this artwork?

- When interviewed about this sculpture, artist Katy Schimert said she used sheet metal because it was easy to access from a factory close to her studio. How does that information affect how you understand the work? How do you think the material dictated the form of the sculpture?
- What connections does this artwork inspire you to make between the natural landscape and our human-made environment? In what ways are the two in harmony? In what ways are they in conflict?
- What connections can you make between this work and our world today or historically?