

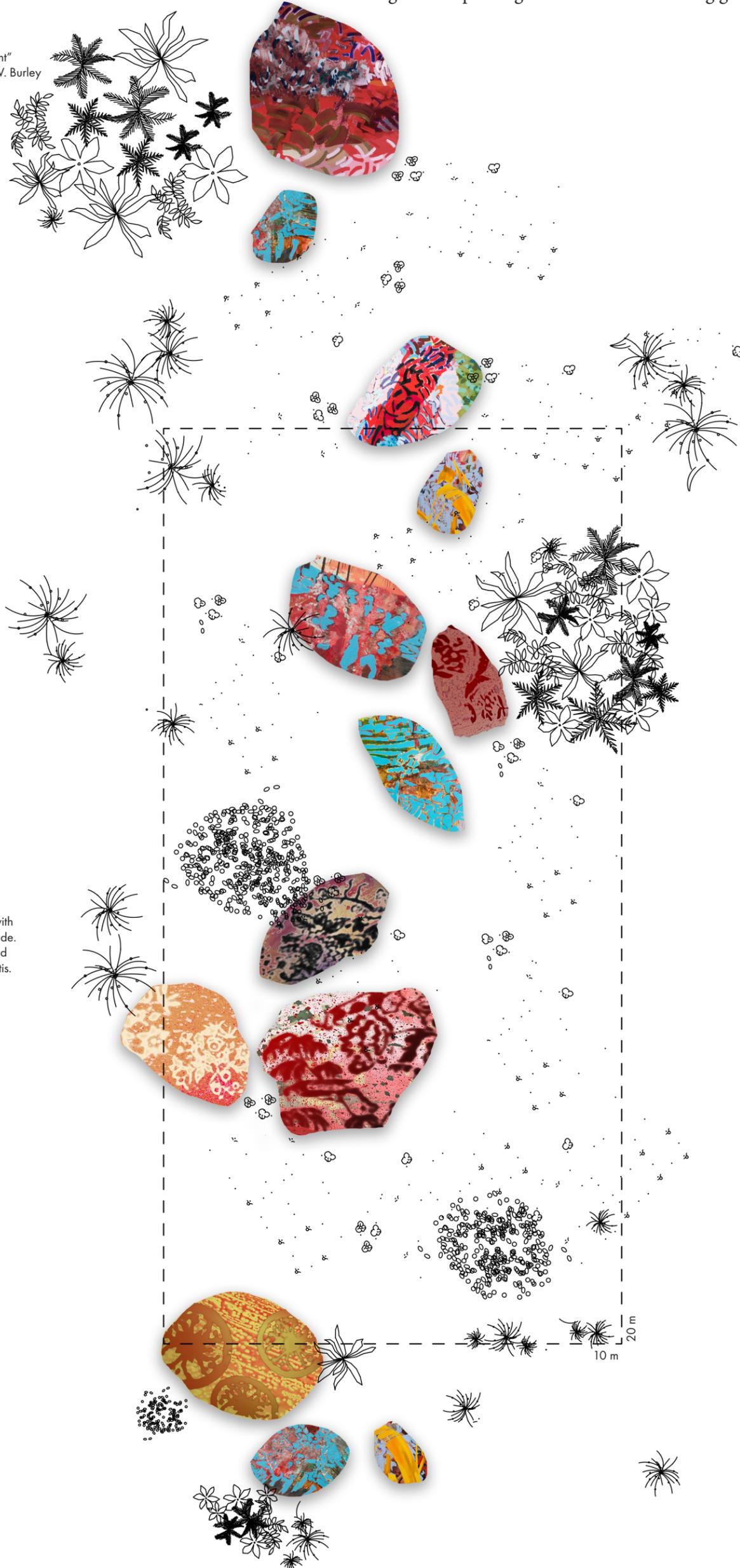
EARTHENWARE

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Earthenware proposes a pathway of handmade ceramic tiles, planted within a woodland garden. Crafted from local clay and dyed cement, the tiles will reference botanical designs from traditional ceramic dishware owned by Western Metis women. Largely a nomadic community, excavations of Metis overwintering settlements have found the remnants of transfer-printed ceramic dishes. Though impractical for an itinerant culture, it is believed that these ceramics played an important role in elevating female status and social integration between aboriginal and European cultures.

Representing the migratory lifestyle of the Metis and reclaiming the traditional use of ceramics by women, the tiles will be markers of a path or paths, that visitors themselves create, reminding the visitor of steps taken and retraced. The tiles originate as mixtures of clay; through their transformation into material artifacts and curated installation, they mediate the relationship between humans and their environment, and signify the integration of different worlds and cultures. The tiles will be painted with glazes overlaying historic botanical patterns with local vegetation species grown in the surrounding garden.

Source: "Function, Meaning and Context: Ambiguities in Ceramic Use by the "Hivervant" Metis of the Northwestern Plains" by David V. Burley (1989)



Planting List

A "park-like" landscape partially wooded with open grassy clearings with both sun and shade. The planting scheme hybridizes the woodland and prairie landscapes inhabited by the Metis.

Grasses

Canadian Wild Rye
Elymus canadensis

Tufted Hair Grass
Deschampsia cespitosa

Big Blue Stem
Andropogon gerardi

Ferns

Ostrich Fern
Matteuccia struthiopteris

Eastern Hayscented Fern
Dennstaedtia punctilobula

Northern maidenhair fern
Adiantum pedatum

Mosses

Sand Beauty
Racomitrium canescens

Tousled Treasure
Callicladium haldanianum

Feather Bed
Ptilium crista-castrensis



Perspective, walking towards the Saint Lawrence River/Fleuve Saint-Laurent



Section

Sample paving tiles to deploy in the Jardin. Tiles are hand-glazed ceramic and colored cement pieces, inspired both by contemporary oil painting and 19th century glaze transfer Spode/Copeland pottery found at Metis excavation sites.



Sample Spode/Copeland transfer print patterns found in hivervant Metis wintering sites

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