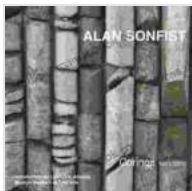


Alan Sonfist's Time Landscape: Corings 1971-2024



Alan Sonfist: Corings 1971 - 2024 by Bill Meeks

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 9419 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 12 pages
Lending : Enabled



By Bill Meeks

Alan Sonfist's groundbreaking work, *Corings 1971-2024*, stands as a testament to the interconnectedness of time, nature, and human intervention. As a pioneer of environmental art, Sonfist sought to bridge the gap between the natural and the constructed, creating works that engage with the ecological and cultural history of specific sites. *Corings*, in particular, embodies this approach, spanning multiple decades and locations, and inviting viewers to contemplate the passage of time and the ways in which human activity shapes the environment.

Origins and Concept

The concept of *Corings* emerged in the early 1970s as Sonfist was exploring the intersection of art and ecology. Inspired by the work of paleontologists and archaeologists, who extract core samples from the

earth to study its geological and cultural past, Sonfist sought to create a similar process for understanding the history of a specific site.

Sonfist's method involved drilling deep into the ground at a chosen location and extracting a cylindrical core sample. This core, containing layers of soil, rock, and organic matter, became a physical record of the site's geological and biological history. Sonfist then exhibited these cores in museums and galleries, presenting them as both artistic objects and scientific specimens.

Time and Transformation

Corings is a time-based artwork in the truest sense. Each core sample represents a cross-section of a particular moment in time, revealing the gradual changes that have occurred over the course of decades. By presenting these cores together, Sonfist creates a visual timeline that allows viewers to witness the evolution of a site over time.

The title of the work, *Corings 1971-2024*, further emphasizes the temporal aspect. The starting date, 1971, marks the beginning of Sonfist's exploration of this concept. The end date, 2024, is projected into the future, indicating that the work is ongoing and will continue to evolve over time. This open-ended timeframe invites viewers to consider the long-term implications of human activity and the resilience of nature.

Ecological Restoration

Corings is not only a work of art but also an act of ecological restoration. By extracting core samples, Sonfist draws attention to the often-overlooked layers of history that lie beneath the surface of a site. This process can help to raise awareness about the importance of preserving and protecting our natural heritage.

In addition to collecting cores, Sonfist also planted native plant species around the coring sites. These plantings serve to restore the ecological balance of the area and create a living testament to the site's history. Over time, these plants will grow and change, further enriching the site's tapestry of life.

Site Specificity

Corings is a site-specific artwork, meaning that it is created for and exists within a particular location. Sonfist carefully selected each coring site based on its unique ecological and cultural significance. These sites include forests, meadows, deserts, and urban areas, each with its own distinct story to tell.

By situating his work within these specific contexts, Sonfist challenges the traditional notion of art as something that is separate from the natural world. He argues that art can and should be an integral part of the environment, enhancing our understanding of both the natural and the human-made.

Legacy and Influence

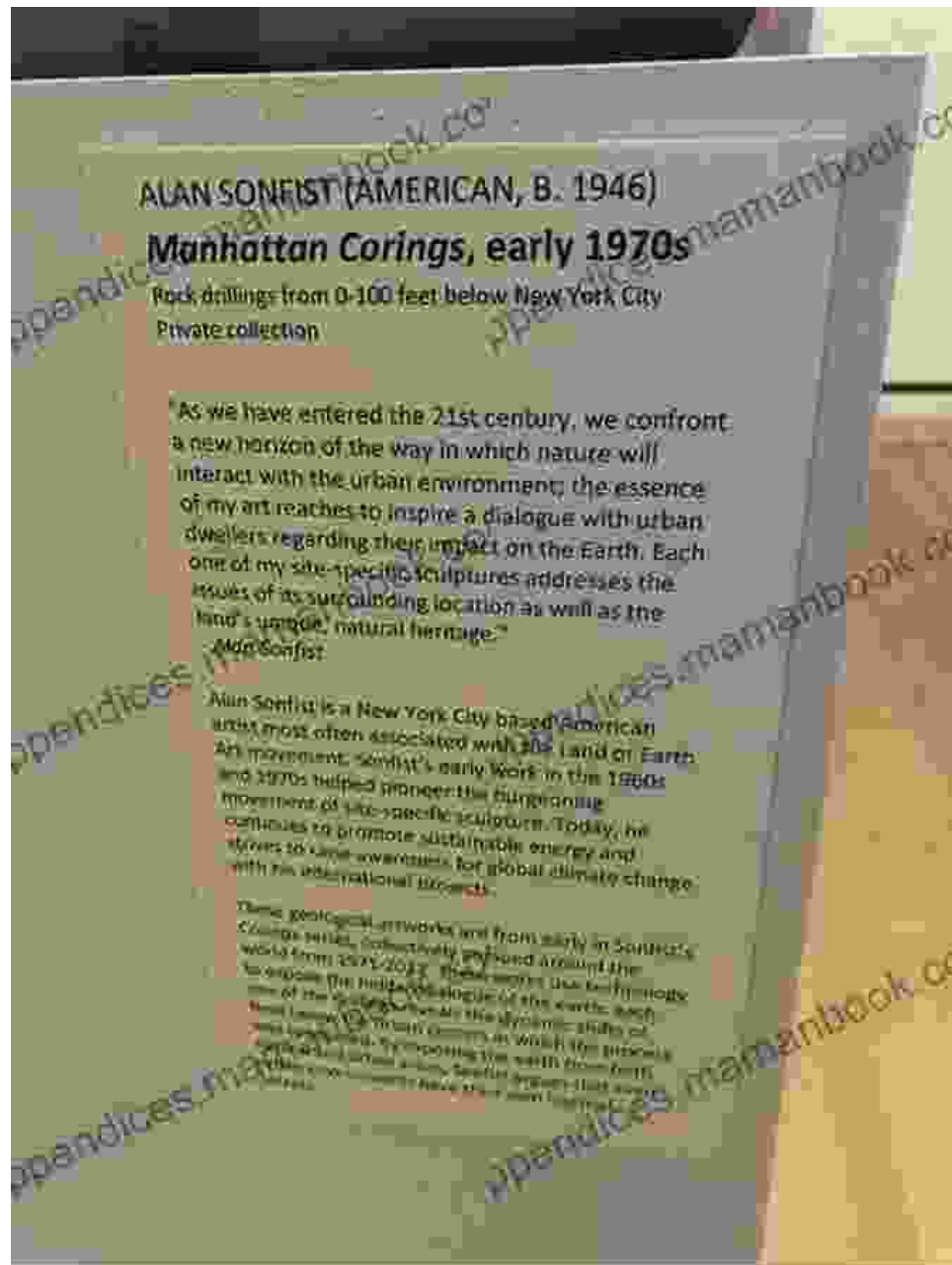
Alan Sonfist's *Corings 1971-2024* has had a profound impact on the development of environmental art. It is widely recognized as a groundbreaking work that has inspired countless other artists to explore the intersections of art, nature, and time. Sonfist's approach to site specificity and ecological restoration has also influenced the field of environmental design and land use planning.

Corings continues to be exhibited and studied around the world, serving as a reminder of the interconnectedness of all living things and the importance

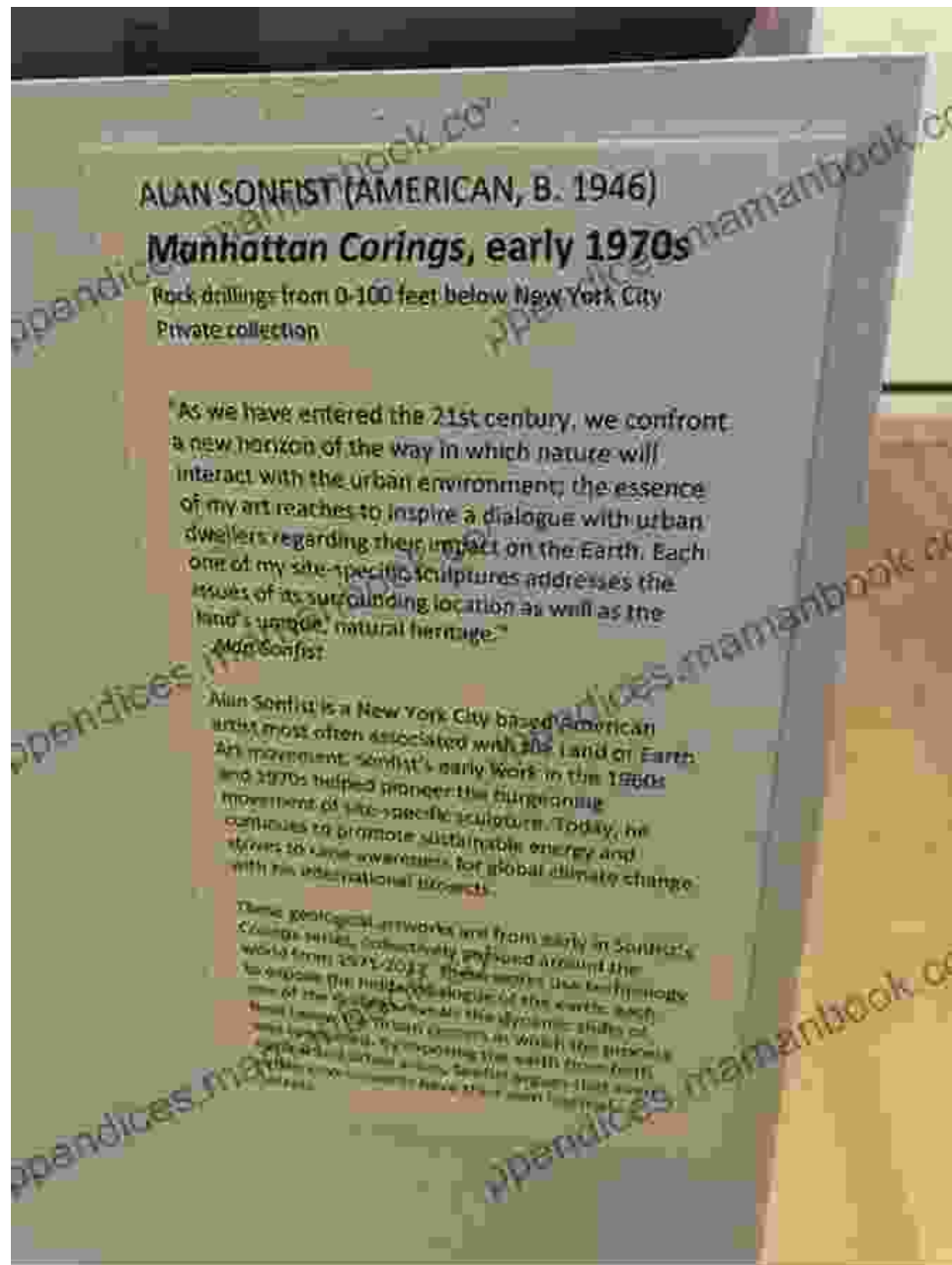
of preserving our natural heritage. As the work progresses into the future, it will continue to generate new insights and inspire future generations of artists and environmentalists.

Alan Sonfist's *Corings 1971-2024* is a visionary work of art that transcends the boundaries of traditional artistic practice. It is a testament to the power of art to connect us with the natural world, to remind us of our place within it, and to inspire us to protect and preserve our environment for future generations.

Image Gallery



Alan Sonfist, *Corings 1971-2024*, core sample, 1971



ALAN SONFIST (AMERICAN, B. 1946)

Manhattan Corings, early 1970s

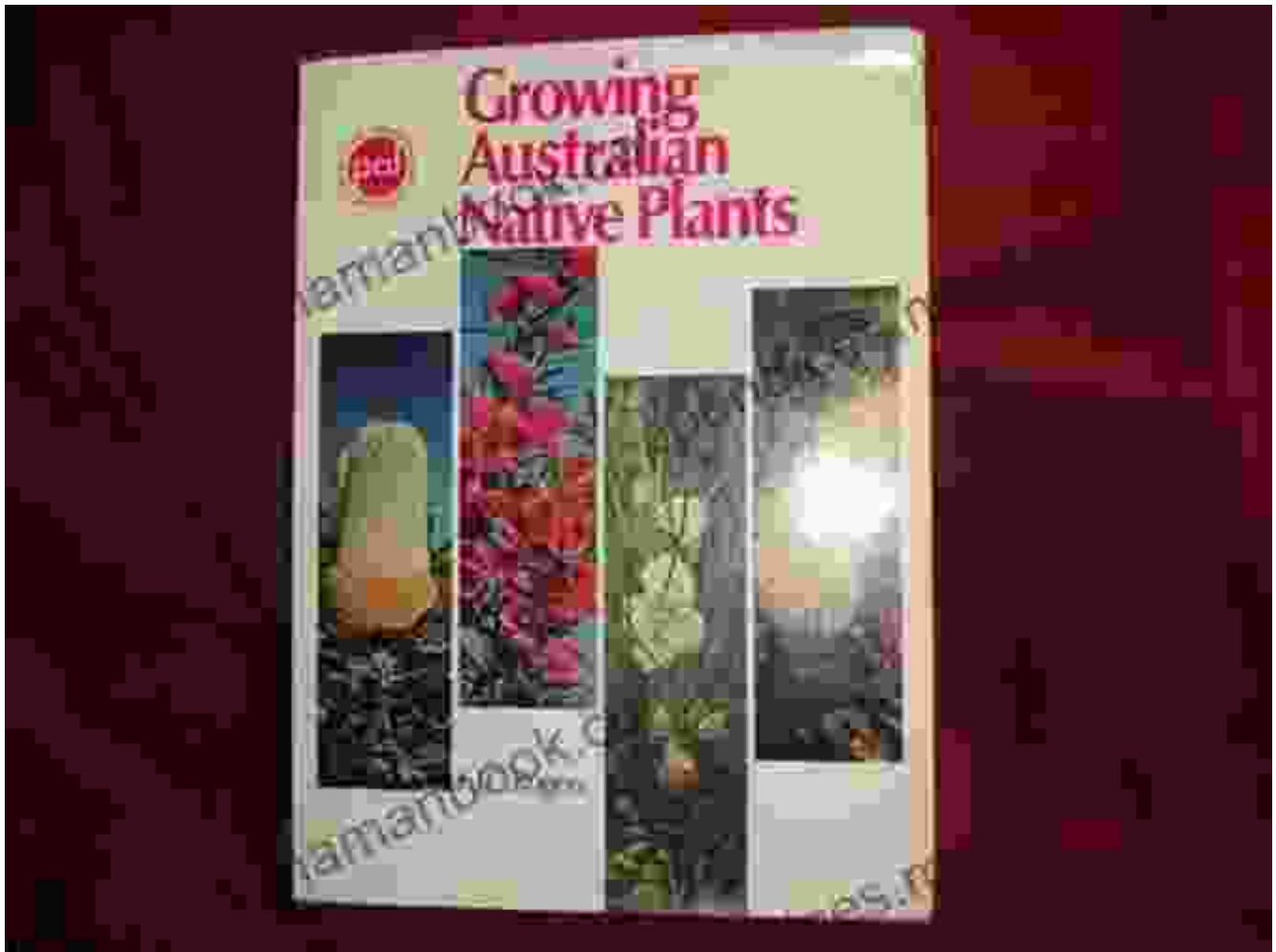
Rock drillings from 0-100 feet below New York City
Private collection

"As we have entered the 21st century, we confront a new horizon of the way in which nature will interact with the urban environment; the essence of my art reaches to inspire a dialogue with urban dwellers regarding their impact on the Earth. Each one of my site-specific sculptures addresses the issues of its surrounding location as well as the land's unique natural heritage."
- Alan Sonfist

Alan Sonfist is a New York City based American artist most often associated with the Land or Earth Art movement. Sonfist's early work in the 1960s and 1970s helped pioneer the burgeoning movement of site-specific sculpture. Today, he continues to promote sustainable energy and strives to raise awareness for global climate change with his international projects.

These geological artworks are from early in Sonfist's Change series, collectively produced around the world from 2001-2022. The artworks use technology to expose the hidden geology of the earth, such as the New York State Museum's dynamic shifts in sea level. The artist connects the earth's processes and human activity, by exposing the earth from both the ground and the sky. Sonfist's projects that were created in 2001-2022 are part of the Change series.

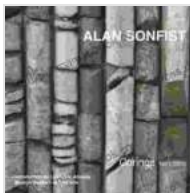
Alan Sonfist, *Corings 1971-2024*, installation view, 1971



Alan Sonfist, *Corings 1971-2024*, planting native plants, 1971

References

1. Sonfist, Alan. "Time Landscape: Corings 1971-2024." *Artforum*, vol. 11, no. 10, 1973, pp. 48-53.
2. Tuchman, Phyllis. "Alan Sonfist: Corings 1971-2024." *Artforum*, vol. 23, no. 8, 1985, pp. 72-75.
3. Gablik, Suzi. "Alan Sonfist: The Earth as Art." *Art in America*, vol. 75, no. 4, 1987, pp. 124-129.
- 4.



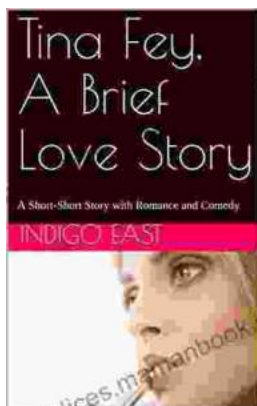
Alan Sonfist: Corings 1971 - 2024 by Bill Meeks

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 9419 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 12 pages
Lending : Enabled

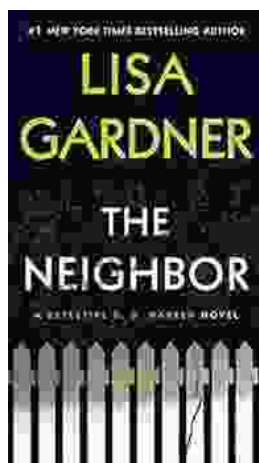
FREE

DOWNLOAD E-BOOK



A Delightful Blend of Love and Laughter: Exploring Short Stories with Romance and Comedy

In the realm of literature, where imagination reigns supreme, there exists a captivating subgenre that weaves together the threads of romance and comedy, creating a tapestry of...



Detective Warren: A Gripping Tale of Suspense and Intrigue

Step into the enigmatic world of Detective Warren, a seasoned investigator whose reputation for brilliance and tenacity precedes him. With an unmatched ability to dissect...

