

Guggenheim Fellow Walks a Line

New York-based artist and Guggenheim Fellow, **Samuel Nigro**, memorizes and walks the Pacific Crest Trail to continue his 30-year quest of breaking stone for the field of Sculpture and exploring root causes of the creative process.

April 23, 2022, Samuel Nigro begins a new, **three-part** art project, entitled “Drawing a Line.”

Part I, he will draw a line by thru hiking the complete Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), a National Scenic Trail stretching 2,653 miles from Mexico to Canada through the mountains of California, Oregon, and Washington. With permit in hand and having memorized the general contours of the trail, he begins at the Mexico Border, April 23, 2022, and anticipates finishing September or October.

Part II and III will take place over the following year after he exits the trail, and involve expanding the memorized trail into a modern-day songline, and, with all of the raw experiences and material gathered from hiking the trail, create a series of writings, drawings, and images, and a series of stone sculptures — all based on the theme of breaking stone that he has been working with for about 30 years.

Samuel Nigro’s work fits within multiple threads of the long history of sculpture that spans the use of primal materials such as stone, the dependence of an object within a specified space for meaning, and the marriage of disparate media, such as stone and video, writing and performance. Some of his earlier performance work included breaking hundreds of stones and taping the shards back together, digging a hole for 24 hours, and dragging a boulder through the streets of New York City. This early work highlights some of the performative themes he continues to explore with this present project: the endurance of the body as a geometric tool, pushed to extremes, to generate relationships between material, action, and location. Nigro’s static stone work, usually with multi-ton blocks of granite, is based on the simple formula of finding a stone, breaking it, and, then, placing it — a marriage of sculpture as object, sculpture as action, sculpture as site-specific critique. One seminal piece was a 9-ton block of granite, simply broken once, put back together and then placed in Cadmen Plaza, Brooklyn, NY, 2007. He states:

“30 years ago, I attempted the Pacific Crest Trail with a friend, an epic experience that was foundational to me becoming an artist and working with the idea of breaking stone. Today, I revisit and revive this journey and attempt the trail again, but with a renewed purpose of putting the ineffable qualities of the creative process at the heart of human experience and our collective development, using the basic, primal creative act of drawing a line.”

Learn more about Samuel Nigro’s work: www.samuelnigro.com

Follow “Drawing a Line - a thru hike of the Pacific Crest Trail”: [Twitter, @SamuelNigroPCT](https://twitter.com/SamuelNigroPCT).

Offer financial support at the *Box of Supplies Level* for \$200: [Venmo account, @Samuel-Nigro](#).

Contact Samuel Nigro at sam@samuelnigro.com for more information.

SAMUEL NIGRO