

Max Dean - Clip 7

The origins of *Prairie Mountain*

Prairie Mountain came out of a project where I was invited to participate in an exhibition called *Sculpture on the Prairies* and Bill Kirby organized it in 1976 or 77, I think 77, and I didn't have any work to put in the show and so I wrote him a letter and I said here's what I propose to do. I established a set of criteria on which to operate and one of them was that we would advertise in the Gallery newsletter for space, anonymously, and to a post office box, seeking a space around which, and something like that, that I will build an artwork. And with the first response that we got, we would try and negotiate a contract, and then I would go to this space and build a work out of what was there or what I carried on my person. So what you had in this particular case, was we ended up in a one room schoolhouse, sixty miles outside of Winnipeg in the countryside. When I arrived there, it was all boarded up, and there was the table, there were the teacups, there was all this loose lumber, broken glass and I essentially carved the ladder and all the harrow spikes and things like that out using my pocket knife only. So it's basically what I could build with what was available or what I carried. So it turned out that I actually built three pieces for that show with a pocketknife and the various parts. I actually ended up braiding my clothes for one particular element so I cut up all my clothing so that's the context that it came out of.

