A Proverbial Machine in the Garden

Dynahoe tractor, concrete, earth, landscape, steel grating
66 x 28 x 12 feet

Storm King Art Center, NY
Reference: George Inness. *The Lackawanna Valley*. c. 1855
Preparatory drawings
The notion of a ‘machine in the garden’ is a cultural symbol that underlies the tension between the pastoral ideal and the rapid and sweeping transformations wrought by industrialized technology. Brooks’s work considers this ongoing conflicted relationship between the individual and the built and natural environment.

Speaking to Storm King’s past—as an agricultural site—and present—as a carefully sculpted pastoral environment—*A Proverbial Machine in the Garden* addresses questions of how humans use, consume, and perceive of the natural world.

Brooks’s piece is subterranean, and invisible from afar. It is designed to be experienced—as a natural landscape or topography would be—by viewers walking across it.

—Excerpted from the Storm King Art Center press release
Photograph by Jerry L. Thompson
The Storm King museum building and the sculpture itself sit atop manmade hills. Photographs by Jerry L. Thompson.
Interpretive signage with aerial image of Storm King grounds from 1957, when it was still an active farm.