Preserved Forest

Nursery-grown trees, earth, concrete.
Dimensions variable

Installation at MoMA PS1, NYC
One of the more unusual sights [during installations for MoMA P.S. 1’s Greater New York 2010 show] was a cement mixer outside. It was not there to smooth out the sidewalk or resurface P.S. 1’s courtyard, but to put the finishing touches on “Forest Preserved,” by the 34-year old artist David Brooks.

Mr. Brooks stood in P.S. 1’s 26-foot-high duplex gallery, where concrete had just been dumped, pumped, and sprayed over a forest of trees trucked in from nurseries in Florida…The trees had been arranged to approximate an Amazonian rain forest.

As the [cement] mixture was drying—and delicately encrusting the trees—the leaves began wilting, cast in a gray haze of heavy concrete…Mr. Brooks added that the work “will change every day as it decomposes.”

Preparatory drawing
View of new canopy tree growth after one year of the installation