

# Tweed

m u s e u m o f a r t

50

ART and  
ENVIRONMENT

activity 35

university of minnesota duluth  
[www.d.umn.edu/tma/](http://www.d.umn.edu/tma/)

# 35.

ALAN SONFIST  
(American)

*Gene Bank, Old Growth Forest, Three Mile Island,  
Minnesota*

1999

color photographs, wood shelf, specimen jars,  
botanical parts, earth, 74" x 94 x 6"

Photographs, specimen collection by Steven  
Bardolph

Collection Tweed Museum of Art

The environmental artist Alan Sonfist wants to connect people to the natural environment through art.

Here he shows us photographs of an old growth forest in Northern Minnesota along with plant and soil specimens.

Like many artists, he wants us to think about how the natural environment is disappearing. He sees these works as "gene banks" of materials which could regrow a lost forest to restore the land to its pre-contact conditions.

"Old growth" Forests are places where trees have never been cut and humans have never settled permanently.

The photos start at the ground and move up, one at a time, to the sky.

Help restore the depleted forests. Learn more about the woods where you live. Look for the oldest tree and study it. Be a caretaker of nature.

