



*Art is something that happens when you find a structure of some kind in which something can happen.*

BRUCE NAUMAN

**Bruce Nauman**

***Setting a Good Corner (Allegory & Metaphor)*, 2000**

**DVD, edition of 40**

**Dimensions variable**

**Collection of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth,**

**Museum purchase, Sid W. Richardson Foundation Endowment Fund**

**Acquired in 2001**

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The artist Bruce Nauman set the corner post of a fence on his ranch in Galisteo, New Mexico, one day and videotaped the process. As the title of *Setting a Good Corner (Allegory & Metaphor)* suggests, Nauman sees this simple, even mundane, activity as an allegory and metaphor for other areas of life. Maybe we are to see the work as a metaphor for making a work of art, since Nauman has chosen to film it for display in a museum. One of the key elements of the video is Nauman's decision to show us the entire process. He does not leave out the long digging scenes or edit the piece down to its most essential components. In doing so, he emphasizes the notion of time, repetition, and process. Watching Nauman set the corner we are aware, sometimes painfully so, that the duration of an event often depends on things we cannot control, for instance, how long it takes to dig the dirt or how powerful the tools are, and how much one person can do at a time. We also become aware of the fact that much of accomplishing things in life involves a series of repetitive actions – in Nauman's case, sawing and digging – and that these actions can be at once meditative and boring. In the end, we come to realize that many simple activities in our daily lives might resonate with other meanings.