



20. ELECTRIC WEBB (POWER LINES)



“The sensation of nature waking up, and human beings helping to wake it up was luminous, like a hum.”

— Christopher Alexander

In 2015, a Tibetan Buddhist “**lama**” buried a special object known as a “**treasure vase**” here at **High Acres Farm**.

The practice dates back to **Padmasambhava**, and involves a small ceramic vessel filled with crystals, gems, shells, relics, and other sacred objects, to which monks and nuns say prayers and mantras over time. Once a treasure vase is ready, it can be deployed as a powerful healing force into a particular place — said to bring wisdom, protection, abundance, and many other blessings to the area where it is planted.

The planting of the treasure vase here occurred just as this series of rituals was beginning. Now, six years later, with the series approaching completion, it felt important to anchor the new and transformed energies of High Acres Farm with a consciously created (and not merely inherited) “**energy grid**” of our own.

Inspired by the exquisite early American quilts collected by my great-grandmother, **Electra Havemeyer Webb** (each quilt a whole made of many fragments), I began to explore the geometry of interlocking triangles — going beyond the familiar **Star of Bethlehem** found in so many textiles, into more complex Islamic **mosaics** and Hindu **yantras** such as the **Sri Yantra**, with its central **bindu** point anchoring the cosmic totality.

I eventually designed a geometry made of nine overlapping equilateral triangles — forming an iconic star-shaped pattern with eighteen outer vertices and nine inner vertices (twenty-seven in all), leaving a central **nonagon** (or **enneagram**) as empty space within.

Using satellite imagery and GPS, this geometry was then carefully overlaid on the High Acres Farm landscape, encompassing around **forty acres of land**, so that the pattern’s edges run across certain key locations where rituals and other important events have occurred.

The empty nonagon in the middle encompasses the core buildings (barn, stables, cottage, sheds) where we imagine that future cultural and educational activities will be rooted.

The geometry not only creates a kind of “**Magic Circle**” for High Acres Farm, but also, through its star-shaped structure, radiates outward into the surrounding landscape, connecting with other key locations on Earth, casting invisible blessings beyond the bounds of this place.

To bring this pattern to life, a set of twenty-seven mirrored “**lightning transformers**” were designed, fabricated, and installed in the landscape. Each contains a laser-engraved glass mirror showing a map of the overall star-shaped network with a single node circled, indicating that particular transformer’s location. Each mirror is also engraved with a single evocative word, and then encased in a sturdy powder-coated steel frame, attached to a steel pole anchored with concrete into the ground. Emerging from the back of each frame is a twelve-inch eased copper point, otherwise known as an “**Air Terminal**” or **Lightning Rod**, which connects with a braided strand of eight-gauge bare copper wire that circles the mirror two times, before traveling down the back of the pole and passing into the ground.

The resulting instruments function as lightning transformers — attracting lightning during summer storms, and transmuting the raw power of the electricity through the words engraved on each sign, which add those particular qualities to the energy as it passes from the sky, through the sign, and into the Earth.



Because all the mirrors face inwards, with a common center point, when any one transformer is struck, the event is transmitted to the rest of the network — flashing all the nodes at once with a sudden burst of light that charges the land with these twenty-seven particular qualities:

Adventure, Awe, Beauty, Blessings, Communion, Connection, Creativity, Dreams, Fertility, Flow, Grace, Gratitude, Imagination, Inspiration, Joy, Kindness, Love, Magic, Mystery, Passion, Peace, Possibility, Power, Protection, Vitality, Wildness, Wisdom

To activate the energy grid, I use my mother’s mid-1960s **Smith & Corona Electra 110** typewriter (the same machine that produced all the quotes seen in the earlier films).

With lightning bugs flashing outside, the “**Electra**” is placed in the hayloft of the old High Acres Farm barn, newly cleared of its mosaic of mirrors by the recently performed *See Glass*.

The *Electra* is flanked by two 1920s gold doré candelabras from **Tiffany Studios**, as benevolent guardian spirits.

Certain typewriter keys are carefully considered:

{ *CLEAR, SHIFT, POWER SPACE*

As the *Electra* is switched on, a powerful lightning storm overtakes the landscape, leaving the twenty-seven lightning transformers in its wake. The network’s geometry is finally revealed — an energetic quilt in the fabric of the landscape. The music subsides, and only the “**Schumann Resonance**” remains, droning the underlying tone of the Earth.

As **Carl Jung** writes in *Man and His Symbols*:

The mandala serves a conservative purpose — namely, to restore a previously existing order. But it also serves the creative purpose of giving expression and form to something that does not yet exist, something new and unique. The process is that of the ascending spiral, which grows upward while simultaneously returning again and again to the same point.

Performed in 2021 — Duration 6:50

