

# NANCY HOLT

SYMPOSIUM APR 29 & 30



[WesternGallery.wvu.edu](http://WesternGallery.wvu.edu)

## FRIDAY APRIL 29

3:00-3:30 Kristina Lee Podesva, Kirsten Swenson, Rebecca Uchill and Hafthor Yngvason Book Launch at Western Gallery

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4:00-4:05 Christopher Bianco, Dean College of Fine and Performing Arts Welcome, and Introduction

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4:05-5:30 Lisa Le Feuvre Keynote (Fine Arts 238)

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Nancy Holt taking aerial shots of *Stone Enclosure: Rock Rings*

## **SATURDAY APRIL 30 - Miller Hall 152**

9:00-9:45

Coffee + Tea + Danish

9:45-10:00

Hafthor Yngvason

Director's Remarks and Welcome

10:00-10:30

Kirsten Swenson

10:30-11:00

James Nisbet

11:00-11:20

Kirsten and James

Discussion

11:20-11:25

Break

11:25-11:55

Rebecca Uchill

11:55-12:25

Julian Myers-Szupinska

12:25-12:45

Rebecca and J.

Discussion

12:45-2:00

Lunch at WWU

Lunch and Book Sales

2:00-2:30

Kristina Lee Podesva

2:30-3:00

Suzaan Boettger

3:00-3:20

Kristina and Suzaan

Discussion

3:30-3:45

Coffee Break and Book Sales

3:45-4:00

Rena Priest

Story

4:00-4:10

Marianna Christine  
Davison, UC Irvine

Response

4:10-5:10

Panel moderated by  
Lisa Le Feuvre

Conference overview and  
Discussion with all contributors

5:10-5:25

Closing Remarks



**Hafthor Yngvason** has been the Director of the Western Gallery and Sculpture Collection at Western Washington University since September 2015. He was the Director of the Reykjavik Art Museum, in Iceland from 2005 to 2015 and the Director of Public Art at the Cambridge Arts Council in Cambridge, Massachusetts from 1995 to 2005.



**Suzaan Boettger** is an art historian, critic, and lecturer based in New York City and Professor Emerita at Bergen Community College. Dr. Boettger is the author of *Earthworks: Art and the Landscape of the Sixties* (University of California, 2003) and *Nedko Solakov: Ninety-Nine Fears* (Phaidon Press, 2008). She has contributed to eighteen book anthologies and exhibition catalogues and published in diverse scholarly and journalistic periodicals. The College Art Association awarded her a Milliard Meiss Publication Grant, and she won the Boston Psychoanalytic Society's Silberger Prize for an essay drawn from material for her forthcoming book

*Inside the Spiral, The Passions of Robert Smithson*, which will be published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2023.



**Marianna Davison** is a Ph.D. candidate in Visual Studies at the University of California, Irvine, specializing in nineteenth and twentieth-century American art, visual culture, and landscape design. Marianna's research considers how urban natures have been popularly imaged and physically shaped, and interrogates the interconnections between modernist aesthetics, environmental politics, and the perpetuation of settler colonial governance. Her dissertation, "Sculpting Nature, Making Place: The Aesthetics and Ethics of Land-Shaping in Seattle," examines Seattle's environmentally-focused image of place, traced through a century of reclamation

projects and eco-art practices. Marianna was a 2020-21 Junior Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks and is a co-organizer of UCI's Climate Futures Collective.



**Lisa Le Feuvre** is a curator, writer, editor, and the inaugural Executive Director of Holt/Smithson Foundation, an artist-endowed foundation dedicated to the creative legacies of the artists Nancy Holt and Robert Smithson. In the last four years she has built Holt/Smithson Foundation from the ground, creating a new model for an arts institution. Dedicated to generating research, Holt/Smithson Foundation is a time-bound organization working in partnership to develop exhibitions, publications, public programs, collections, artist-commissions, and catalogue raisonnés. She has curated more than 60 exhibitions as an institutional and

independent curator and has played a pivotal role in shaping academic and arts organizations. Le Feuvre has edited over 30 books and journals, spoken at 150 museums and universities across the world, and has published more than 125 essays and interviews with artists.



**Julian Myers-Szupinska** is an art historian and editor based in Los Angeles. Myers was founding faculty in the Graduate Program in Curatorial Practice at California College of the Arts (2003–2020) and was senior editor of *The Exhibitionist* from 2014 to 2017. Since 2011, Myers has worked with Joanna Szupinska in grupa o.k. producing projects for San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Muzeum Sztuki, Łódź, Poland, Institute of Contemporary Art, Winnipeg, Canada, and other institutions. Myers's edited volume of writings by Zdenka Badovinac, *Comradeship: Art, Curating and*

*Politics in Post-Socialist Europe*, was published by ICI in 2019. Myers's ongoing collaboration with the artist Edgar Arceneaux manifested in *Hopelessness Freezes Time* (Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel, Switzerland, 2011). Recent and forthcoming writings include essays on Christina Fernandez, Nancy Holt, Kahlil Joseph, the Société Anonyme, and the history of the art center as a laboratory.



**James Nisbet** is Associate Professor and Chair in the Department of Art History and Ph.D. Program in Visual Studies at the University of California, Irvine, and Director of the Environmental Humanities Research Center. He has published widely on the history and theory of ecocritical visual art and aesthetics from late modernism to the present. His recent book projects include *Second Site* (Princeton University Press, 2021) and *The Invention of the American Desert: Art, Land, and the Politics of Environment* (University of California Press, 2021), which he co-edited with Lyle Massey.



**Kristina Lee Podesva** is an artist, writer, editor, and publisher at Bruna Press. She is the editor of *Nancy Holt Stone Enclosure: Rock Rings* (2022) and has co-edited *Institutions by Artists: Volume 1, Tradición versus Modernidad (Tradition versus Modernity)*, and *Sur: Volume 1*, among other titles. For over a decade, she edited the contemporary art journal *Fillip*, serving as Head Editor from 2010-2015. She has lectured and exhibited her work internationally, including at Arco Art Fair (Madrid), Casco (Utrecht), Darling Foundry (Montreal), the Justine M. Barnicke gallery (Toronto), MOMA (NY), the Power Plant (Toronto), SFMOMA, the Wattis Institute

for Contemporary Art (San Francisco), and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco). She has taught in undergraduate and graduate programs at the California College of the Arts, Emily Carr University, Malmö Art Academy, and is currently an adjunct instructor in the department of Art and Art History at Western Washington University.



**Rena Priest** is a poet and an enrolled member of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation. She has been appointed to serve as the Washington State Poet Laureate for the term of April 2021-2023. She is the 2022 Maxine Cushing Gray Distinguished Writing Fellow, a Vadon Foundation Fellow, and recipient of an Allied Arts Foundation Professional Poets Award. Her debut collection, *Patriarchy Blues*, was published by MoonPath Press and received an American Book Award. She is a National Geographic Explorer (2018-2020) and a Jack Straw Writer (2019). Priest holds an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College.



**Kirsten Swenson** is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. She is currently a fellow at the Kluge Center of the Library of Congress where she is writing a book entitled *Public Works* on Land art as a public art form in the 1970s and 1980s, addressing parks and earthworks by Nancy Holt, Mierle Laderman Ukeles, Suzanne Harris, Agnes Denes, Robert Morris, and others. *Public Works* is supported by a Graham Foundation research grant and an ACLS Burkhardt Fellowship. Another recent project is *Local Ecologies*, a co-curated exhibition and educational initiative that travelled to three UMass campuses over

2019-2020. A book based on the initiative, *On the Ground: Artistic Investigations of Eastern Massachusetts*, co-authored with Rebecca Uchill, will be published by Amherst College Press in 2023. Kirsten is also the author of *Irrational Judgments: Eva Hesse, Sol LeWitt, and 1960s New York* (Yale University Press, 2015) and co-editor and author, with Emily Eliza Scott, of *Critical Landscapes: Art, Space, Politics* (University of California Press, 2015).



**Rebecca Uchill** is a curator, editor, writer, and educator. In November 2021, she organized the initiative *Nancy Holt: Massachusetts*, a program series and multi-venue exhibition exploring Holt's personal relationship with the Southcoast region and her public artwork *Spinwinder* (1991) on the UMass Dartmouth campus. She is a contributor to the Bruna Press volume *Nancy Holt Stone Enclosure: Rock Rings* (2022) and is currently editing the intermedia volume *On the Ground: Artistic Investigations of Eastern Massachusetts* for Amherst College Press with Kirsten Swenson. Uchill was recently appointed Director of the Center for Art, Design, and Visual Culture and Professor of the Practice at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, effective July 2022.

“Words and photographs of the work are memory traces, not art. At best, they are inducements for people to go and see the actual work.”  
- Nancy Holt



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