



Robert Smithson, Mono Lake Nonsite, 1968

Land Art and the City

Arch 3308/6308

Arch 4408/6408

Fall 2019

Thursdays 2:30 -
4:25pm

261C E Sibley

Gesa Büttner Dias

gb389@cornell.edu

Can we think city as nature? Can a place exist that is equal parts city and nature - and what would this be called?

The seminar will look at land art as a map for a speculation on the dialectic between city and nature. Land art emerged in the 1960s with the creation of heroic scaled and remotely located sculptures. The artists questioned the institution of the museum and searched for a dialectic other, which they found in the raw elements of nature.

We will study the theory, tools and creations of land art. We will catalogue raw nature in selected cities. We will think, discuss and write about concepts of dialectic urbanism, of

architecture and nature. We will start an atlas of spaces that are entropic, peripheral, multi-perspectival, phenomenal, unproductive and untimely.

This theory seminar will be organized through lectures, screenings, student presentations, and group discussions in class. Students will research selected land art projects and prepare case studies of selected cities/ nature. In the final paper students will present a topic developed over the course of the seminar.

Participation in the Fall 2019 Preston H Thomas Memorial Lecture Series symposium on Nov 7-8 will be expected.