



Land Art

By Michael Lailach

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Land of expression: The earth as canvas

In the mid-60s, artists in the USA and Europe began planning works for sites outside the narrow boundaries of galleries and museums. It began with ephemeral enhancements or traces left in deserted landscapes, in the deserts of America, or in the moors of Scotland. Following this were spectacular earthen sculptures of gigantic proportions, some of which are still in the process of completion today. One distinguishing feature of Land Art is its critical preoccupation with the tradition of sculpture. Sculpture can now be an earthwork excavation, a field of metal poles, a buried hut, a trace in the grass, or even a book. Another of the movement's special characteristics is its emphasis on site-specific, outdoor works intended to lastingly alter our perception of places, and to set new parameters in art production and reception.

Artists included: **Carl Andre, Alice Aycock, Herbert Bayer, Christo & Jeanne Claude, Walter De Maria, Agnes Denes, Jan Dibbets, Hamish Fulton, Andy Goldsworthy, Michael Heizer, Nancy Holt, Peter Hutchinson, Patricia Johanson, Dani Karavan, Richard Long, Mary Miss, Robert Morris, Dennis Oppenheim, Charles Ross, Robert Smithson, Alan Sonfist, James Turrell**

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Each book in TASCHEN's Basic Genre Series features:

- a detailed illustrated introduction plus a timeline of the most important political, cultural and social events that took place during that period
- a selection of the most important works of the epoch, each of which is presented on a 2-page spread with a full-page image and with an interpretation of the respective work, plus a portrait and brief biography of the artist
- approximately 100 colour illustrations with explanatory captions

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Michael Lailach is a curator and research staff member at the Kunstabibliothek of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. He obtained his doctorate in art history at the Universität Tübingen, after which he completed a traineeship at the Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin and now administers the Kunstabibliothek's Marzona collection.

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