

# GRAHAM FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Nancy Holt: Sightlines on view at the Graham Foundation October 7 – December 17, 2011.*



Nancy Holt, *Views through a Sand Dune*, 1972, cement-asbestos pipe, sand, Narragansett Beach, Rhode Island.

**Chicago, September 15, 2011** – The Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts is pleased to present *Nancy Holt: Sightlines*, offering an in-depth look at the early projects of this critical American artist whose pioneering work falls at the intersection of art, architecture, and time-based media.

Since the late 1960s, Nancy Holt has created a far-reaching body of work, including films, videos, site-specific installations, artist's books, concrete poetry, and major sculpture commissions. *Nancy Holt: Sightlines*, which includes documentation from more than 40 projects, showcases the artist's early films, videos, and related pieces from 1966 to 1980, pivotal works which transform how we perceive landscape through the use of different observational modes. Featured in the exhibition are Holt's film *Sun Tunnels* (1978), which documents the creation of her well-known site-specific work of the same name, and *Pine Barrens* (1975), a meditative documentary about a notoriously vast, undeveloped region in central New Jersey. Other highlights in the exhibition include *Swamp* (1971, in collaboration with Robert Smithson), *Locating #2* (1972), *Boomerang* (1973, in collaboration with Richard Serra), *Points of View* (1974), a four-monitor installation, and *Revolve* (1977), alongside materials from early moments in Holt's career that have been selected from the artist's archive, which has only recently become available for exhibition and study.

**Nancy Holt** was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1938 and raised in New Jersey. In 1960, she graduated from Tufts University. Shortly after, she moved to New York, where — alongside a group of colleagues and collaborators including Michael Heizer, Carl Andre, Eva Hesse, Richard Serra and Robert Smithson — she began working in film, video, installation and sound art. With her novel use of cylindrical forms, light, and techniques of reflection, Holt developed a unique aesthetics of perception, which enabled visitors to her sites to engage with the landscape in new and challenging ways.

Holt is the recipient of five National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, two New York Creative Artist Fellowships and a Guggenheim Fellowship, among other honors. Her work has been shown at the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C., the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, the Tate Modern in London, and elsewhere.

## EXHIBITION CATALOG

Released in April 2011, *Nancy Holt: Sightlines* (University of California Press) is the first retrospective published on Holt's trail-blazing 45-year career. Animated by rigorous and lively essays from some of the leading writers on post-1960s artistic practice and exquisitely illustrated, this catalogue charts Holt's artistic trajectory from her initial experiments with unlikely media — sound, light, and industrial materials — to the culmination of her development of major site interventions and freestanding environmental sculptures. Edited by curator Alena J. Williams, this seminal publication includes contributions from Julie Alderson, Matthew Coolidge, Pamela M. Lee, Lucy R. Lippard, James Meyer, Ines Schaber, and Holt herself. *Nancy Holt: Sightlines* is made possible by the generous support of the Lannan Art Foundation.

## CURATION

*Nancy Holt: Sightlines* was curated by Alena J. Williams, a Ph.D. candidate in Columbia University's Department of Art History and Archaeology. The Chicago presentation is organized by Sarah Herda, Graham Foundation Director, with Ellen Hartwell Alderman, Program Coordinator.

## EXHIBITION TOUR

*Nancy Holt: Sightlines* originated at the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, in New York and traveled to Badischer Kunstverein in Karlsruhe, Germany. After the Graham Foundation presentation, the exhibition will travel to Tufts University Art Gallery at the Aidekman Arts Center in Medford, Massachusetts, Santa Fe Arts Institute in Sante Fe, and Utah Museum of Fine Arts, University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

## FUNDING

This exhibition and tour are organized by the Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University. Major support for the exhibition and its programs is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Graham Foundation provided significant support to both the exhibition and publication.

## RELATED EVENTS

Friday, October 7, 2011, 6-8 PM

**Opening Reception with Nancy Holt and curator Alena J. Williams**

Saturday, October 8, 2011

**Panel Discussion, Artist Talk and Book Signing**

4 PM Panel Discussion:

The panel will consider the wider influence of Land Art since the 1960s and 70s, and new perspectives on Nancy Holt's interdisciplinary oeuvre through a critical rethinking of how the field has come to be defined.

Panelists include **Matthew Coolidge**, Founder and Director of the Center for Land Use Interpretation (CLUI), **Miwon Kwon**, Professor of Art History at the University of California, Los Angeles, **Yates McKee**, Ph.D. candidate in Art History at Columbia University and **Ann Reynolds**, Associate Professor in the Department of Art and Art History and the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. **Branden Joseph**, The Frank Gallipoli Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art and Director of Art Humanities at Columbia University in the City of New York, will moderate.

7 PM Artist Talk:

Nancy Holt will present an artist's talk, which will be followed by a book signing and reception.

Mining the Wasteland: Land Art's Legacy in Contemporary Art and Politics is co-presented with The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University.

Thursday, October 20, 2011

**Deborah Stratman Lecture: *Forces and Gazes***

For more information about the events, or to RSVP, visit: [www.grahamfoundation.org/public\\_events](http://www.grahamfoundation.org/public_events).

## ABOUT THE GRAHAM FOUNDATION

Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts makes project-based grants to individuals and organizations and produces public programs to foster the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society.

The Graham Foundation was created by a bequest by Ernest R. Graham (1866–1936), a prominent Chicago architect who was a protégé of Daniel Burnham.

## THE MADLENER HOUSE

Since 1963, the Graham Foundation has been located in the Madlener House, a 9,000 square foot Prairie-style mansion located in the historic Gold Coast neighborhood of Chicago. The work of architect Richard E. Schmidt and designer Hugh M. G. Garden, the house was built in 1901–02. In its compact, cubic massing the house is related to the German neoclassical work of Karl Friedrich

Schinkel and his followers in Berlin, but in many of its details clearly reveals the influence of Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright.

## **EXHIBITION LOCATION, HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY**

Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts  
Madlener House  
4 West Burton Place  
Chicago, IL 60610  
[www.grahamfoundation.org](http://www.grahamfoundation.org)

Gallery Hours: Wednesday to Saturday, 11AM to 5PM; every third Thursday of the month, 11AM to 8PM. Group tours available. Admission: Free

The Graham Foundation will offer public tours of Nancy Holt: Sightlines every Saturday at 2PM. Saturday tours do not require reservations and are free and open to the public. Tours will begin in the foyer on the first floor and last approximately 30 minutes.

Accessibility: Galleries are located on the first, second and third floors of the Madlener House. The second and third floors are only accessible by stairs. The first floor of is accessible via an outdoor lift. Please call 312.787.4071 to make arrangements.

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High-resolution digital images and publication excerpts are available online; email Ellen Hartwell Alderman at [ealderman@grahamfoundation.org](mailto:ealderman@grahamfoundation.org) for login information or additional information.  
Press tours available by appointment.

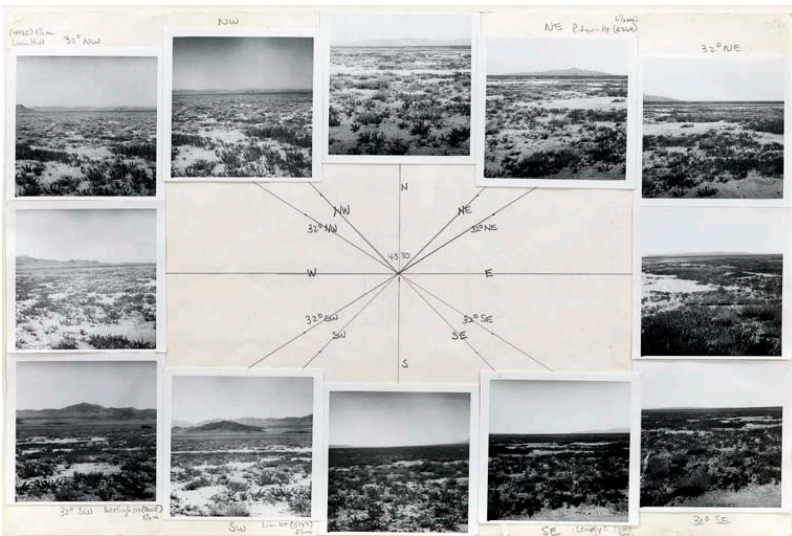
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<http://www.grahamfoundation.org>



Nancy Holt shooting the film *Sun Tunnels*, 1978, The Papers of Nancy Holt, Galisteo, New Mexico. Photo Lee Deffebach.



Nancy Holt, *Pine Barrens*, 1975, still from 16-mm film.



Nancy Holt, Preparatory drawing of *Sun Tunnels*, 1975, pencil and twelve black and white photographs on paper, 14 x 20 in.