



Nancy Holt: Screening and Artist Talk

Please join EAI for a special evening with artist Nancy Holt.

Wednesday, November 15, 2006 6:30 pm Admission free

Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI) 535 West 22nd Street, 5th Floor New York City



Nancy Holt will screen and introduce a number of her remarkable landscape-based films and videos. Among the works to be shown are the seminal process film *Swamp* (1971), made with **Robert Smithson**; *Pine Barrens* (1975), Holt's evocative exploration of a desolate New Jersey wilderness; and *Mono Lake* (1968-2004), also a collaboration with Smithson, which features Super-8 film and Instamatic slide images of Holt, Smithson and artist **Michael Heizer** on a 1968 trip to California's Mono Lake. In addition, one of Holt's early videos, *Going Around In Circles* (1973), will be displayed on a monitor. After the screening there will be a Q & A with the artist.

A pioneer of earthworks and public art, Nancy Holt is best known for her large-scale environmental sculptures including Sun Tunnels in Utah, Dark Star Park in Virginia, and Up and Under in Nokia, Finland. Holt has also worked extensively in a variety of media, including installation, film, video, and photography. In the late 1960s and 1970s she created a pioneering body of video works that explored issues of landscape, perception, process, and memory.

Holt uses film and video to evoke the experience of the unique and remote landscapes that she explores, seeking to "displace a place." Holt's work harnesses the characteristics of the land and the life that lives and grows in it. Her moving-image work communicates these locations to distant viewers, sharing with them a new awareness of the natural American environment.

Swamp 1971, 6 min.

Swamp, a collaboration with Robert Smithson, in Holt's words "deals with the limitations of perception through the camera eye as Bob and I struggle through a muddy New Jersey swamp. Verbal directions cannot easily be followed as the reeds crash against the lens, blocking vision and forming continuously shifting patterns. Confusion ensues."

Pine Barrens 1975, 30:24 min.

Pine Barrens, rarely screened in New York, uses film to evoke a vast barren wilderness, a thousand square miles of sand and pine trees, in south-central New Jersey. Throughout the absorbing piece, Holt describes her camera as being "always in motion - tracking, pivoting, and walking through the landscape." Accompanying Holt's images of hauntingly beautiful desolation are her audio recordings of the local people, the "Pineys," who describe their feelings about the land, urban life, and local myths about the Pine Barrens. Combined with their music and her recordings of ambient sound, the viewer experiences what it might be like to wander among the dwarf pines.

Mono Lake 1968-2004, 19:54 min.

Mono Lake, another collaboration between Holt and Smithson, captures their visit with Michael Heizer to the uncanny landscape around California's hyper-saline Mono Lake in July 1968. Edited by Holt in 2004, it is a document of a unique natural environment, a "home movie" of the artists' 1968 road trip, and an intimate view of three seminal figures in the earth art movement as they interact with the Western landscape so central to their work.

Nancy Holt was born in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1938 and spent much of her childhood in New Jersey. In 1960, she graduated from Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts. Holt has produced site-specific environmental works in numerous public places around the world. Holt's works, including her films and videos, have been widely exhibited internationally. Nancy Holt lives and works in New Mexico.

For more information about Nancy Holt, please click visit www.eai.org.

About EAI: Founded in 1971, Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI) is one of the world's leading nonprofit resources for video art and interactive media. EAI's core program is the international distribution of a major collection of new and historical media works by artists. EAI's activities include a preservation program, viewing access, educational services, online resources, and public programs such as exhibitions and lectures. The Online Catalogue provides a comprehensive resource on the 175 artists and 3,000 works in the EAI collection, including extensive research materials and artists' Web projects.

www.eai.org

For more information about this event please contact: **Josh Kline** (josh@eai.org) **T: (212) 337-0680 x10**
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