



Robert Smithson

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This fully illustrated 248-page book accompanies the first comprehensive American retrospective of Robert Smithson's (1938–1973) complex and highly influential career. Straddling the movements of minimalism and land art, Smithson, who died in a plane crash at the age of 35, had a profound impact on the cultural landscape that resonates to this day. *Robert Smithson* presents essays by top Smithson scholars alongside both archival imagery and specially commissioned photography of the artist's works; it considers the interrelationship of Smithson's complete artistic output, from the earliest figurative work up to his famed earthworks. Smithson's revolutionary ideas positioned art as existing beyond the walls of the museum in media such as writing and film, and even in the landscape itself. This volume and the exhibition it accompanies explore Smithson's work within the context of the artistic climate of the late 1960s as well as ensuing decades.

Perhaps most renowned as the creator of *Spiral Jetty* (1970), a fifteen-hundred-foot rock coil dramatically situated in the Great Salt Lake, Smithson also broke new ground with his films, photographs, writing, drawings, and collages. Eugenie Tsai provides a curatorial overview of the exhibition, which includes early writings, drawings, and other work with religious, erotic, and pop culture motifs that deepen our understanding of Smithson's diverse practice. Other contributions to the volume are a previously unpublished interview with Smithson by Moira Roth; a substantive historical and critical essay by Thomas Crow; an essay by MOCA curator Cornelia Butler discussing Smithson's lineage and his influence on contemporary artists; and a series of texts focusing on key works from Smithson's oeuvre, including *Incidents of Mirror Travel in the Yucatan* by Suzaan Boettger, *Enantiomorphic Chambers* by Ann Reynolds, *Airport Terminal Project* by Mark Linder, *Spiral Jetty* by Jennifer Roberts, *Heap of Language* by Richard Sieburth, *Proposal for Monument at Antarctica* [sic] by Robert Sobieszek. The book also features the complete *Library List*—a posthumously compiled list of publications in Smithson's personal library—with an introduction by Alexander Alberro, as well as an exhibition checklist and annotated exhibition chronology.

With contributions by Alexander Alberro, Suzaan Boettger, Cornelia Butler, Thomas Crow, Mark Linder, Ann Reynolds, Jennifer L. Roberts, Moira Roth, Richard Sieburth, Robert A. Sobieszek, and Eugenie Tsai

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