2017 APPLICATION MATERIALS

Opening *The Cultivated Wilderness, or, What is Landscape?* architecture critic Paul Shepheard reveals that "this book is about seeing things that are too big to see." He provides three clear frames to orient our recognition: "The *Wilderness* of the book's title is the world before humans appeared in it, and the *Cultivation* is everything we've done to it since. *Landscape* is another name for the strategies that have governed what we've done." Investigating earthworks or land art is a way of mapping the intersection of geomorphology and human construction. Earthworks begin with the shape of the land and extend through the complex social and ecological processes that create landscape. Including the full array of human activity marking the planet, from petroglyphs to roads, dwellings, monuments and traces of those actions, earthworks show us who we are.

Since 2001 Land Arts of the American West has been developing as an transdisciplinary field program expanding the definition of land art and human action creating landscapes. Land Arts is a semester abroad in our own back yard connecting the pedagogic potential of travel with the rigors of field research. Land Arts of the American West at Texas Tech University seeks to cultivate collective energy within an expanded disciplinary range of examinations from architecture, the built environment, public culture, science, and geography to explorations of literature and contemporary art.

WE ARE RECRUITING STUDENTS FROM ACROSS TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY AND BEYOND IN ALL DISCIPLINES.

Contact Chris Taylor with any questions and potential interest.

Information Meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 5:30pm
Architecture and Art Courtyard, Texas Tech campus
Meeting for all students interested in applying to the program. We will review the program goals and application details. Applicants outside Lubbock can schedule an individual meeting via video chat.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 5:00pm
Architecture Bldg. Rm: 709

Notification of Acceptance: Wednesday, April 12, 2017

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PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The primary learning and research objectives of Land Arts are:

» To provide significant periods of time to make work directly in the landscape that examines the broad range of human interaction shaping the earth in the creation of ecosystems, civilizations and the built environment.

» To create an atmosphere of critical inquiry and learning through making that expands disciplinary limits of knowledge and connects broad modes of practice.

» To cultivate productive exchange between practices across the arts, architecture, humanities, and sciences—particularly multivalent forces that shape landscapes.

» To develop a body of research within the landscape of the Americas building upon the collective history of Land Arts field experience and examining all forms of place.

» To develop Land Arts as a transdisciplinary field laboratory operating as a hinge that folding together research and teaching.

» To foster the ability for student, faculty, and professional research to develop simultaneously and in parallel through the creation of new works, exhibitions, publications, and other forms of dissemination.

Historically Land Arts participants carry lasting affects of their experience that resonate through their work and personal identity well beyond the duration of their involvement with the program. It is therefore important to understand the labors and merits of Land Arts over longer periods of time than a semester or degree program. Such an intense physical, intellectual, and emotional experience makes profound impressions; changing people's lives by transforming their relationship to the physical and social environments we occupy.

Additional information can be found online at http://landarts.org and http://arch.ttu.edu/wiki/Land_Arts_of_the_American_West

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COURSE STRUCTURE

Land Arts is a full long-semester program that runs in the fall of each year. The first two-thirds of the term are spent in the field, with work on campus occurring during the balance of the term and breaks from the field. At its core Land Arts is a studio experience and provides a full load of credits to allow participants to continue working towards their degree as a full time student. The primary course load is a six-credit studio and a three-credit seminar (selection of final course numbers determined with academic advisors -- 9 credit hours total) and are offered to graduate and undergraduate students from across the university.

The course work of Land Arts will occur along three distinct pedagogic lines of investigation: seminar (discourse), studio (operations), and documentation (analysis/ perception). While the course structure, titles and assignments are discrete, the subject matter and momentum established by the program is holistic and defies compartmentalization. The work of Land Arts will consist of projects associated with the specific courses as well as activities that exist between them. The primary elements will be: introductory exercises, finished works, seminar, and exhibition. Participation in all elements is required. Primary issues investigated by the program include: LAND~SCAPE: operating at the intersection of geomorphology and human construction, and PLACE-LESS~PLACE: mining the shift from unknown to acculturated space.

Introductory exercises occur early in our field experience to introduce the fundamental issues inherent in Land Arts and create a point of origination for the development of a common vocabulary for our work.

During the journeys, and by the end of the term, students are required to produce six **finished works**. Additional information about required works will be defined within the specific course syllabi.

Regular **seminar** sessions will occur in a pattern throughout the semester to provide a place of discussion where the questions of the program can be addressed and developed (detailed within the course schedule). Structure of the seminars will include those directed by student teams, guest scholars, and topical group discussions. Guest scholars will lead discussions of student work and investigations of particular sites.

Work created during the program will be exhibited at the end of the term. All students are required to participate in the Land Arts of the American West **exhibition**. All finished

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works shall be submitted for consideration. The work is expected to be of a level to warrant inclusion. Selection of work included will be determined by faculty.

The Land Arts **Archive** includes documentation of process works in the field, the program experience, finished work and participant journals. All students are required to participate in the collection of materials and contributing to the archive. The archive will be managed through the web and specific requirements for submission will be provided. The Center for Art + Environment at the Nevada Museum of Art is collecting the Land Arts Archive and material generated each year augment that collection.

MATERIALS

Land Arts of the American West will access a broad range of physical and geographic research materials. In most cases students provide physical material needed to complete their work (see suggested materials list). Material may be collected in the field and/or packed in. Keep in mind that space in the vehicles will be very limited and each of you will be expected to operate within your allotment (2 large duffle bags).

Readings will be required during the journeys focused around particular sites and program questions. Preparatory research before our departure for the field is encouraged. Each participant's body of work and the questions it seeks to uncover should govern the focus and nature of individual research.

TRAVEL & CAMPING

Land Arts engages the landscape through direct exposure. Students must be prepared for the rigors of road and wilderness. Spending two months traveling 6,000 miles throughout the American West to visit and make work in response to contemporary and pre-contact land art is to engage the fundamental difference between embodied and mediated education. Land Arts seeks to confirm the idea that if you bring students out into the world instead of the world into the classroom, you can fundamentally change how we learn, create, and view our surroundings. In this context we strive to make deeper and more precise connections within our work and be inspired to create work that makes broader linkages outside of ourselves. Land Arts is about getting out there.

The Land Arts curriculum is delivered while camping and traveling from site to site. The physical, intellectual, and emotional challenges of this experience are essential ingredients in the overall educational content of the program. It is critical to the success and survival of the group that each participant accept the responsibilities of working with and for the group. Camp work (set up, cooking, cleaning, water hauling, breaking

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camp…) will be required of everyone. Students will be responsible for their own individual camping gear and course materials (see attached lists). Group gear (cooking equipment, water storage, kitchen shelter, mobile tech lab…) will be provided.

ITINERARY

The itinerary is determined by the intersection of work and interpretive sites and the geographical movement connecting them. Land Arts seeks to investigate particular and diverse places (and placeless areas) that define the American West. The journey between those points of inquiry is as important as the destinations. The itinerary will be finalized by mid summer from a list of sites similar to or including those of previous years — review website for particular itineraries of previous years http://arch.ttu.edu/wiki/Land_Arts_of_the_American_West.

GUESTS

The American West is our classroom and studio. Program guests are invited to join particular segments of our journeys to assist the interpretation of sites we encounter and work we produce. The interaction with significant authorities from diverse cultures expands the scope of our discussion and enables students to connect their work to broader contexts. Final selection of the guests will be determined in conjunction with the itinerary — review website for field guests of previous years http://arch.ttu.edu/wiki/Land_Arts_of_the_American_West.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Chris Taylor is an architect, educator, and director of Land Arts of the American West at Texas Tech University. He studied architecture at the University of Florida and received his Master of Architecture from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard. Taylor has been developing the Land Arts program since 2001 and has traveled extensively in the American West. In 2007 he led a group of students and professionals on a Land Arts expedition to Chile called *Atacama Lab: 07*, which is documented in the book *Incubo Atacama Lab* published in Santiago in December 2008. Taylor is also the author, with Bill Gilbert, of *Land Arts of the American West* a book documenting the history and development of the Land Arts program that was published by the University of Texas Press in April 2009.

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

The program assistant will assist in the field operations with responsibilities over the management of base camp logistics and travel. All members of the program will share in the responsibility and function of our camp life and be accountable to the program director and assistant.

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ETHICS

All camping and work production is governed by a ***no trace*** **ethic**. This means we strive to minimize our affect on the environment in all activities. After documentation all work will be dispersed and the site returned as nearly as possible to its original condition.

All participants are required to maintain a consistent **engagement** that contributes to the successful operation of the program. There will be a scheduled rotation for cooking and cleaning. In addition everyone is required to help with packing, unpacking, camp setup and take down.

ADMISSION POLICY & CRITERIA

The success of a studio-based field study experience hinges on the constitution and culture of the group of participants. Admission into the program is selective and competitive. Land Arts of the American West is a rigorous program that seeks outstanding students with demonstrated skills. The selection of students is determined by committee through the review of student's academic work (strength of statement and integrity of work), and an assessment of their ability to contribute to the group dynamic for outdoor survival. Criteria have been developed to assist in this process and insure the broadest possible student participation. Final admission will follow a portfolio review, an interview and be at the discretion of the program director. The program is to undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate students from all disciplinary backgrounds.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Complete Contact Information Form.
- Statement of Intent: personal statement not to exceed one page outlining student's qualification, experience, and objectives for participation in Land Arts.
- Work: Submission of creative work (portfolio or slides), 20 slides maximum within a single PDF file. Work may include any recent projects (from within or outside your course of study) that demonstrates conceptual and material aptitudes. Clearly state your level of involvement and responsibilities for any collaborative projects.
- Interview: individual meetings with the program director to assess qualifications.

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GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Participation in Land Arts of the American West is by admission only.
- Land Arts will provide a full credit load (9 units) for the fall semester. Students are required to register for all courses. Additional independent study courses can be arranged if needed—discuss with faculty for details.
- Along with standard Texas Tech University tuition and fees, a Land Arts Program Fee of **$3,000** will be assessed to each student. The fee covers costs of all transportation, camp meals, and group lodging in the field.
- Students must carry personal medical insurance during the semester.
- Students must provide their own personal camping equipment and course materials (see lists provided).
- Courses will meet at regularly scheduled times during non-traveling segments of the schedule. Studio sessions after the last journey will allow for further development and completion of work originated in the field.
- Each student is required to participate in the Land Arts 2017 Exhibition that will occur in Lubbock, Texas in the Spring of 2018.
- Participants not affiliated with Texas Tech must enroll and register for courses within the College of Architecture. Tuition costs can be found online at http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentbusinessservices/feeInfo/tuition-estimator.php
- Contact Chris Taylor with any questions and to discuss details.

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SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- **Risk**: understand and familiarize yourself with the risks inherent in this program and traveling in the landscape of the southwest. Critical to the foundation of Land Arts is the educational opportunity of working within the landscape. Land Arts is intellectually, physically, emotionally, and environmentally demanding.
  Be prepared to respond to these demands.

- **Precautions**: remain aware of all verbal and written precautions provided in the field and on campus.

- **Not getting Lost**: always tell others where you are going, your expected return time, and anticipated route (there and back). Use maps, personal guidance, natural landmarks, and always travel with partners. If you become lost: stay calm. Remain in your location and wait for help. Seek a shelter and gather local provisions as the situation warrants.

- **Dehydration**: always carry plenty of water, 1-2 quarts minimum. It is very important to have enough water should something unexpected happen. Most ground water you will find is NOT SAFE to drink.

- **Nutrition**: eat well to maintain energy levels in the field. Always carry reserve food when away from camp (energy bars, snacks, trail food, fruit, lunch...).

- **Respect**: always respect the natural, cultural, and personal resources found in the field. This directly affects your personal safety as well as the preservation of those resources for future use by others.

- **No trace**: our field ethic is to leave only footprints and take only photographs. Effort will be spent to insure no evidence of our camping or working remains.

- **Change**: all activities are subject to change due to variable weather, road, and camp conditions. Safety will always come first. Stay informed of current logistics.

- **Group Eyes**: stay connected to the group as a whole and/or through small partnerships. It is vital to watch out for the group and keep others informed of your activities.

- **Release**: to participate in the program all indemnification, release, proof of insurance, and information forms but be submitted complete and signed.

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CAMPING EQUIPMENT LIST

- Water container(s) that fit in your day pack (1-2 quart).
- Personal hygiene articles to include: toothbrush, biodegradable soap and shampoo, hand cleaner, lotion, insect repellant, sun block, towels (hand / large)
- Pocketknife.
- Day Pack for hikes and general field use to transport food, water, and materials.
- Small tarp for gear projection in camp.
- Warm sleeping bag and sleeping pad. It is typical to be exposed to nighttime temperatures from the high 80's to the low 20's.
- Headlamp or flash light with extra bulb + batteries.
- Personal Emergency Kit (to be kept with you always when outside of base camp) to include: foil emergency blanket, whistle, compass, maps, adhesive bandages, sterile gauze pads, adhesive tape, antiseptic, water purification tablets, strike anywhere matches in waterproof container, chemical glow stick, pencil + paper.
- Tent with rain fly (coordinate with crew mates to share where possible). Low profile or smaller tents are better in strong winds. Expect strong winds.
- Camp clothing (layers for warmth and protection from the elements).
- Work clothing (one pair of pants + long sleeve shirt for messy work + work gloves).
- Adverse weather gear: (cold, hot, rain) outer shell/rain gear, thermal layers, warm gloves, heavy socks, sun hat, swim suit, sunglasses, loose fitting long sleeve shirt + pants (to protect from the sun).
- Hiking shoes/books: broken in, good support (waterproof a plus).
- Water shoes for swimming in lakes and rivers.
- Special dietary or medical needs (alert program director to any prescriptions or special needs).
- Music, books, cameras, binoculars or other personal resources (optional).
- Personal studio materials and tools (as required).

General Note: All gear will be packed in and out of site. Some sites will require longer transport of gear than others. Space in the vehicle will be extremely limited. All gear must fit within two large (soft) sturdy duffle bags. Do not bring excessive gear. Pack well.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Student: _____eRaider ID#: _____

Name (last, first – please print)

_____date of birth: _____

(Major / Area / Focus / Affiliation)

PERMANENT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Address: _____

(Street or PO Box)

_____

(city, state, zip)

Phone: _____

Email: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION (DURING FALL):

Name: _____Relation: _____

Name (last, first)

Address: _____

(Street or PO Box)

_____

(city, state, zip)

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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