



Zoe Leonard, image from *Al Rio/To the River*, 2016–20. Gelatin silver prints. © Zoe Leonard. Courtesy the artist, Hauser & Wirth and Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne.

LAND ARTS 2020 ADAPTATION

How does a field program adapt to a pandemic? Science fiction scenarios of bio-hazard-suited researchers, roaming the desert, examining the residue of humanity's engagement with the natural world do not adequately protect participants from covid-19 uncertainty. Nor can we shield the vulnerable communities and lands—disadvantaged by systemic economic poverty and limited health infrastructure—that we routinely encounter. Rather than magnify the inherent risks of travel, Land Arts 2020 will adapt.

Land Arts 2020 ADAPTATION will conduct an interdisciplinary deep research studio and seminar to construct a *meander map of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo* as it marks the border from El Paso/Juarez to the Gulf of Mexico. We will collectively research, study draw the history and traces of the ever-changing river. The work produced will be part a publication being developed by the artist Zoe Leonard, a former Land Arts field guest, and poet Tim Johnson to build knowledge around terrain of past (and future) field operations. The 2020 Adaption seeks to responsibly honor the ethos, aspirations, and complexities of the Land Arts program that is dedicated to teaching greater awareness and understanding of how we as humans build and operate on the planet.

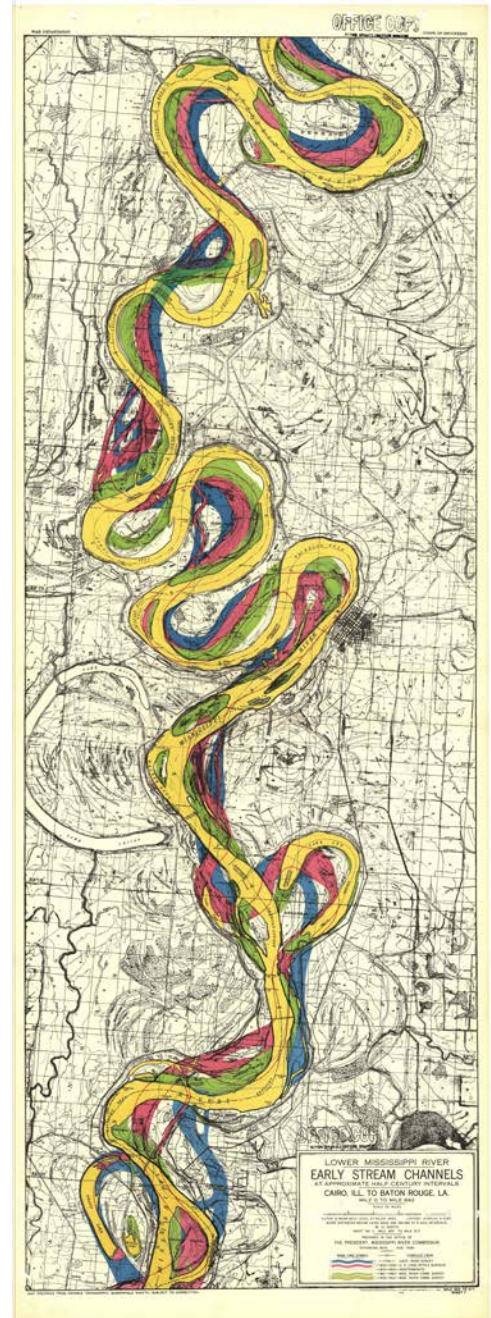
HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Land Arts 2020 Adaptation will operate from the College of Architecture at Texas Tech University during the Fall semester as a non-traveling (face-to-face and/or hybrid-remote) studio and seminar to conduct the research necessary to produce the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo meander map that will describe the undulating and shifting course of the river over time and provide a significant resource for Leonard's *Al Rio / To the River* publication.

The map, inspired by those produced by Harold Fisk and team in 1944 of *The Alluvial Valley of the Lower Mississippi*, will require extensive binational and multilingual research into the history of river geometry and mapping as a manifestation of dynamic ecosystems modified over time by wide ranges of human construction.

The opportunity for students, guests, and the Land Arts program, to create a map as temporal condition report that will have significant international visibility is a tremendous opportunity in itself, and a clear way to productively adjust our operations to the present conditions.

Participation is **open to everyone**—architects, artists, poets, writers, historians, linguists, geographers, scientists—from those interested in the 12 credit hour graduate Land Arts Certificate to undergraduates and people yet to enroll in the university. Ideally participants will register for both the graduate topical studio and seminar, yet that is not required as it will also be possible to participate through variable credit independent study or the seminar or studio individually. There will be a host of guest collaborators from across campus and beyond.



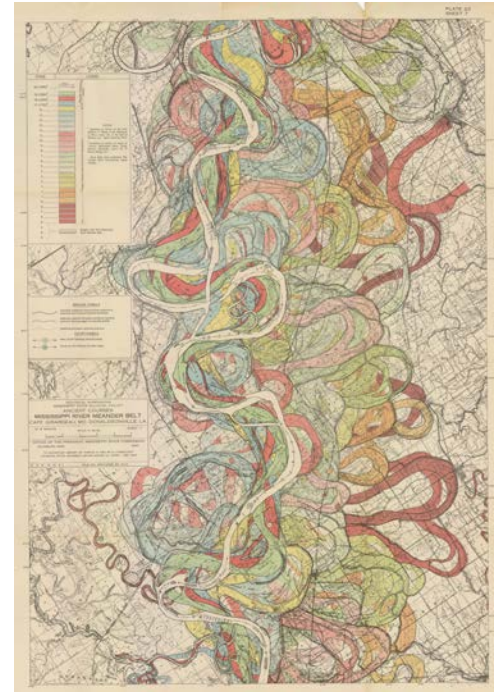
Lower Mississippi River Early Stream Channels at Approximate Half-Century Intervals, Cairo, Ill. to Baton Rouge, LA, Sheet 7 of 12, Mile 405 to 517, Mississippi River Commission, August 1938.

ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES

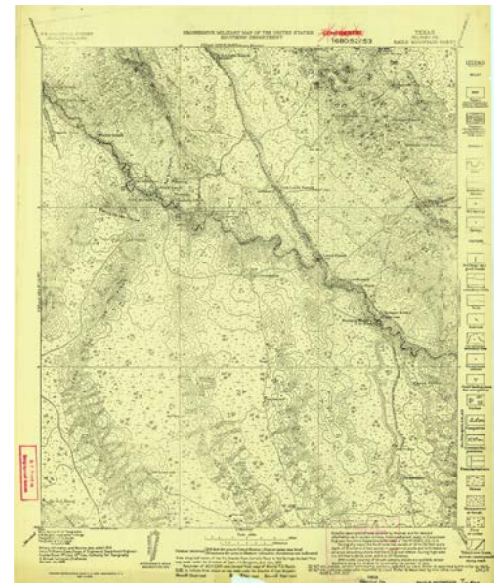
- ARCH 5601/5603, Advanced Architectural Design - studio (6 credits).
- ARCH 5301, Special Problems in Architecture - seminar (3 credits).
- ARCH 5315, Systems of Architectural Inquiry - certificate seminar (3 credits).
- ARCH 7000, Independent Research (variable from 1-9 credits).
- ARCH 4000, Architecture and Urban Studies (variable from 1-9 credits).

This studio and seminar arose from an invitation extended to Land Arts of the American West at Texas Tech by Zoe Leonard and Tim Johnson, who is editing the publication, that will accompany upcoming exhibitions of Leonard's photographs. Scheduled to open at Mudam, the Contemporary Art Museum of Luxembourg in 2021, *Al Rio / To the River* will then travel to the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris before coming to the United States and Mexico where it is being considered by additional venues. Since 2016, Leonard has been working "to photograph and chart the length of the Rio Grande as it forms a charged, serpentine border between the United States and Mexico" prompting the inclusion of an initial selection of the work in the Carnegie International, 57th Edition, 2018.

The publication accompanying the exhibition will be designed by Joseph Logan and will feature Leonard's photographs and an expansive range of documents and texts from a stellar group of poets, writers, journalists, and scholars of border conditions, archeology, and indigenous culture that demonstrate the vital fluidity and active measures embodied by the rio.



Mississippi River Meander Belt, Cape Girardeau, Mo. to Donaldsonville, LA, Sheet 7 of 15, Harold N. Fisk, December 1944.



Progressive Military Map of the United States Southern Department, Eagle Mountain Sheet, U.S. Geological Survey, July 1916.

In the recent book *Border Land, Border Water: a history of construction on the US-Mexico divide*, C.J. Alvarez invokes a 1941 International Boundary and Water Commission monograph that describes the “political, economic, and cultural importance of one of the most intractable river systems in the western hemisphere—the meandering, vagrant Rio Grande.” Johnson and Leonard believe a meandering map of this expanse of the river has yet to be created.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Disciplinary knowledge to be gained:

1. Direct exposure and working knowledge of the complex history along the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo as international border that continues to be actively shaped by ecologies of human and non-human agents.
2. Conceive, develop and collectively produce a meander map of the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo that activates and demonstrates the collective research trajectory.
3. Interpolate and test understandings of craft in archival investigation, mapping and drawing in the production the rio meander map.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

Professional knowledge to be gained:

1. Ability to translate research questions in to tangible design research projects.
2. Ability to synthesize diverse, divergent, and complex source materials from grounded experience of land and people.
3. Ability to operate as a productive member of a collective with shared responsibilities for group safety in demanding contexts.
4. Ability to link professional academic production with social and ecologic responsibilities established by working with a group.
5. Ability to share the energy, insight, and ambition of the Land Arts experience with others long into the future.

Contact [Chris Taylor](#) for inquires and additional information.