

Contemporary Art of Joshua Tree

Information

Date/Time: Sunday, March 27 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Meet at: [Joshua Tree Community Center](#) (click on the link for a map to the meeting site)

6171 Sunburst St, Joshua Tree

Instructors: Bernard Leibov, Director of BoxoPROJECTS

Maria Myrick, Noah Purifoy Outdoor Museum

Overview

Joshua Tree and environs are well known for the burgeoning artist community that has been drawn here. The local contemporary art scene is vibrant and a healthy companion to the music community that has flourished in the area. Bernard Leibov, Director of BoxoPROJECTS, takes us through his highlights of the local cultural scene. After an introduction and orientation in the classroom, Bernard will take us on the road to visit several of the interesting art sites in the area.

Itinerary

Sunday, March 27, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Joshua Tree Community Center, 6171 Sunburst St, Joshua Tree

- Introduction
- a special docent-led tour of Noah Purifoy Outdoor Museum (see docent bio below)
- a visit to the public sculptures at A-Z West, the experiment in living by Andrea Zittel
- Bring Your Own lunch and a tour at BoxoPROJECTS, home to a residency program as well as the Joshua Treenial
- a visit to High Desert Test Sites Gamma Gulch
- Artist studio visit tbd
- cap the day off with a stop at Art Queen

Please note that our car caravan will be traveling over dirt roads to get to a number of the venues. Low clearance vehicles may not be suitable. If possible, we will arrange carpooling with “standard” sized vehicles.

What to Bring to the Course

Lunch!

Optional Class Materials

- Camera

The 10 Essentials: *Every day in the Desert*

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Closed toe hiking shoes
- Lunch and snacks
- Clothing layers
- Hat
- Sun glasses
- Sunscreen
- Notebook and pencil/pen
- Whistle

Suggested Reading:

Andrea Zittel "Lay of My Land"

Kim Stringfellow "Jackrabbit Homestead"

LACMA "Junk dada" catalog for Noah Purifoy exhibition

William Fox "The Void the Grid and the Sign"

Fitness Requirements

Participants must be in good physical condition for courses/activities in a desert that may be hot, dry, windy, and sometimes surprisingly cold.

Hike Level

Easy

Guidelines

- You are responsible for your safety.
- Park your car in designated areas only. Parking along the side of the road is dangerous to you and the environment.

- Rattlesnakes are present in the desert. Avoid contact with wildlife. Put your hands and feet only where you can see them.
- Only you know your limits, please let the instructor or Desert Institute Representative know if you do not want to continue.
- Stay with the group. If you get lost, stay put.
- Drink plenty of water. If you run out, notify the instructor or the Desert Institute Representative.
- Before leaving the class, check out with the Desert Institute Representative.

Instructor Biography

BERNARD LEIBOV is the Founder and Director of BoxoPROJECTS, a residency and programming initiative based in Joshua Tree, CA. He is also co-founder and co-curator of the Joshua Treenial. Prior to moving to California, Bernard was Deputy Director of Judd Foundation in New York and Marfa. He also operated a non-traditional gallery space in New York City which featured artists from Joshua Tree and other non-urban areas.

MARIA MYRICK recently joined the Noah Purifoy Foundation as its Project Coordinator. Working in close proximity with Sue Welsh, Co-Founder of the Foundation, Ms. Myrick helped create an online visual curriculum for the NPF Urban Arts Initiative, which included a teacher guidebook, a student handbook and a comprehensive biography of Noah's life. Using this curriculum as a device to continue bringing the Joshua Tree Outdoor Museum to public school students in South LA, Maria worked with teachers and artists throughout the 2020-21 school year to provide an exceptional educational arts experience. Under Welsh's tutelage, Ms. Myrick has studied texts of Purifoy historians and has a comprehensive understanding of both his assemblage work and his artistic responses to the politics of his time. Maria has fortified her knowledge of Noah's creative process and educational endeavors through first-hand accounts supplied by Los Angeles artists and teachers Purifoy once worked with.

* The Desert Institute staff/instructors will attempt to accommodate participant's needs; however we reserve the right to deny a student participation in the course due to concerns regarding health and safety issues.