

DESERT INSTITUTE

at Joshua Tree National Park Association

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Spring Session

2023

## Contemporary Art of Joshua Tree

### Information

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Date/Time: Saturday, Feb 25. 12:30pm-5pm

Meet at: Outside JTNP Visitors Center, 6554 Park Blvd., Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Instructors: Bernard Leibov, Director of BoxoPROJECTS  
Maria Myrick, Noah Purifoy Outdoor Museum

### Overview

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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, Bernard will take us on the road to visit several of the interesting art sites in the area. 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.

### Itinerary

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Sat. Feb 25, 12:30p-5p

*Meet at JTNP visitor center at 12:30 and caravan to Noah Purifoy at 12:45p*

- Introductory talk (10min)
- a special docent-led tour of Noah Purifoy Outdoor Museum (see docent bio below)
- a visit to two art installations in old homestead cabins (Jetsonorama, Kriblin Jihn)
- a visit to the public sculptures at A-Z West, the experiment in living by Andrea Zittel
- tour of BoxoPROJECTS, home to a residency program as well as the Joshua Treenial

### What to Bring

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- Day pack
- water (4 quarts)
- Closed toe shoes

- Snacks
- Clothing layers
- Sun protection: Hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, long-sleeved lightweight shirt
- optional: camera

### **Suggested Reading:**

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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”

### **Activity Level**

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Easy, but we will be standing and outdoors for the duration of this event, so please be prepared to be exposed to sun, wind, rain, or other weather conditions

### **Instructor Biography**

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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.

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\* 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.