

## **LAND/ART New Mexico Collection CAE1002**

### **Introduction/Abstract**

During summer and fall 2009, a group of New Mexico arts organizations joined together to present LAND/ART, which explored relationships of land, art, and community through exhibitions, site-specific art works, lectures, and a culminating book. Suzanne Sbarge, Executive Director of 516 Arts and Project Coordinator for LAND/ART, collected materials for the archive which include printed catalogs, ephemera, and photocopies of national and regional press coverage.

### **Biographical Note: Gallery 516 and Suzanne Sbarge**

516 ARTS is an independent, nonprofit arts venue located in downtown Albuquerque, New Mexico in a 5,500 square foot, two-story gallery, and is a unique, hybrid venue somewhere between a gallery and museum. 516 ARTS offers adventurous programs that address current issues in world culture, presenting innovative and interdisciplinary exhibitions, events and educational activities in a variety of art forms, including visual and literary arts, film/video and music. Their mission is to forge connections between art and audiences, and their vision is to be an active partner in developing the cultural landscape of Albuquerque and New Mexico.

Suzanne Sbarge currently serves as Executive Director of 516 ARTS, [www.516arts.org](http://www.516arts.org), in downtown Albuquerque, and previously directed Magnífico Arts Incorporated and the Harwood Art Center. She has lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico since 1989. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Art History and Studio Arts from Barnard College in New York City and her Masters Degree in Art Education from the University of New Mexico. She has also studied studio arts at L'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Toulouse, France; Syracuse University in Florence, Italy; The Art Students' League in New York City; University of Connecticut; University of Massachusetts; as well as Anderson Ranch in Colorado, Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina, and Vermont Studio Center. In addition to her own artwork, Sbarge is also a graphic designer, curator, writer, and arts organizer.

### **Scope and Content**

During the summer and fall 2009, a group of New Mexico arts organizations joined together to present LAND/ART, which explored relationships of land, art, and community through exhibitions, site-specific art works, lectures, and a culminating book. The collaboration focused on "environmental" or "land" art, and sought to address our changing relationship to nature, and to offer a new or previously unconsidered understanding of the place in which we live.

Historically, New Mexico has been a place where the intersection of nature and culture is at issue. In the 1960s and '70s, the American Southwest was the location of the first generation of Land Art or Earthworks, including such major projects as Walter De Maria's *The Lightning Field* and Charles Ross' *Star Axis* in New Mexico, Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty* and Nancy Holt's *Sun Tunnels* in Utah, and James Turrell's *Roden Crater* in Arizona. Since then, the Land Art genre has been subsumed under the more general term "environmental art," a highly diverse feature of contemporary art around the world. This genre recognizes that what we now think of as the "environment" has broadened to include the global community, the microscopic world, and cyber space as well as wilderness, the urban environment and suburban sprawl. It includes ecological activism, reclamation and remediation projects, and ephemeral site-specific performances, among many other approaches, all of which have in common art and artists that respond to features of our natural environment.

Materials include printed catalogs and ephemera and photocopies of national and regional press coverage.

**Dates**

2009

**Quantity / Extent**

.125 cubic feet

**Language**

English

**Arrangement**

The *LAND/Art New Mexico* archive is organized into three folders; Exhibition Ephemera, *LAND/Art National Press*, and *LAND/Art Regional Press*.

**Related Archives**

- CAE0901: *The Deiro Collection*
- CAE0902: *Land arts of the American West*
- CAE0909: *Arcy Douglass: Land Arts Investigations and Writings*
- CAE0910: *Patricia Watts: Ecoartspace*
- CAE1041: *Center for Land Use Interpretation: Wendover Residencies*
- CAE1114: *THE LAND/an art site*

**Related Publications**

Gilbert, Bill, and Chris Taylor. *Land Arts of the American West*. Albuquerque NM; Austin TX, University of New Mexico; University of Texas, 2003.

Lailach, Michael. *Land Art*. Koln, Taschen GmbH, 2007.

Gilbert, Bill. *LAND/ART New Mexico*. Santa Fe, NM ,Radius Books in collaboration with 516 Arts, the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, the University of New Mexico College of Fine Arts, the Fund at Albuquerque Community Foundation; New York, NY: 2009.

The LAND/an art Site, Inc. *The LAND/an art site*. Albuquerque, NM: The LAND/an art site Inc., 2011.

**Container Listing by Folder:****CAE1002: Folders 1-3, 2009****CAE Box 6**

- 1 Exhibition Ephemera, 2009
- 2 Land/Art National Press, 2009
- 3 Land/Art Regional Press, 2009