

## **Center for Land Use Interpretation: Wendover Residencies Collection CAE1041**

### **Introduction/Abstract**

This archive contains materials relating to Center for Land Use Interpretation's (CLUI) Wendover Residency Program, which was created in 1997 and ended after the 2015 residency, to support the development of new interpretive methodologies and ideas.

### **Biographical note: Matt Coolidge, CLUI**

Matthew Coolidge is the founder and director of The Center for Land Use Interpretation (CLUI), has been a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellow and a media art fellow of the Tribeca Film Institute and a Lucelia Artist. Coolidge, an American born in Montreal, is the son of a medieval history professor and the brother of the Los Angeles-based photographer Miles Coolidge. Matthew moved to Boston when he was 14 and later earned a B.A. in environmental studies and informal minors in contemporary art and film from Boston University in 1991. He moved to California in 1992 and built models for students at the California Institute for the Arts before co-founding Center for Land Use Interpretation (CLUI) with a group of friends.

CLUI is a non-profit art/research organization that employs a multimedia and multidisciplinary approach to increase and diffuse knowledge about how the nation's lands are apportioned, utilized and perceived. He serves as a project director, photographer and curator for CLUI exhibitions, and has written several books published by the CLUI, including *Back to the Bay: An Examination of the Shoreline of the San Francisco Bay Region* (2001), and *The Nevada Test Site: A Guide to America's Nuclear Proving Ground* (1996). He lectures widely in the United States and Europe on contemporary landscape matters, and is a faculty member in the Curatorial Practice Program at the California College of the Arts, where he teaches a class about "nowhere". Coolidge received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in 2004.

### **Scope and Content**

The Center for Land Use Interpretation is dedicated to the increase and diffusion of information about how the nation's lands are apportioned, utilized, and perceived. It is a research and education organization interested in understanding the nature and extent of human interaction with the earth's surface, and in finding new meanings in the intentional and incidental forms that we individually and collectively create. We believe that the manmade landscape is a cultural inscription that can be read to better understand who we are, and what we are doing.

The organization was founded in 1994, and since that time it has produced dozens of exhibits on land use themes and regions, for public institutions all over the United States, as well as overseas. The Center publishes books, conducts public tours, and offers information and research resources through its library, archive, and web site.

The CLUI exists to stimulate discussion, thought, and general interest in the contemporary landscape. Neither an environmental group nor an industry affiliated organization, the work of the Center integrates the many approaches to land use - the many perspectives of the landscape - into a single vision that illustrates the common ground in "land use" debates. At the very least, the Center attempts to emphasize the multiplicity of points of view regarding the utilization of terrestrial and geographic resources.



The Center's Wendover residency program was begun in 1997 with the leasing of surplus buildings at the former U. S. Army Wendover Airfield, which during WW II was the largest military base in the world. The Center operates a residence program there to support the development of new interpretive methodologies and ideas. The program is open to artists, researchers, theorists, or anyone who works with land and land use issues in an innovative and engaging manner. Residents primarily work out of the CLUI facilities at Wendover, Utah, and explore and interpret the landscape of that unique and inspiring geographic region, which includes the Great Salt Lake and its desert and salt-flat environs.

Materials include correspondence, logbooks, photographs, artworks, and research documents.

**This archive is currently in process.**