Susanna Battin: Key Observation Point
Collection CAE1803

Introduction/Abstract
Key Observation Point originated from artist Susanna Battin's interest in the "Landscape Scenic Quality Scale", a metric pioneered by a group of landscape architects and foresters in the late 20th century who sought to quantify beauty as a means of environmental protection. Materials include research and exhibition materials, a painting, and children’s classroom drawings.

Biographical Note: Susanna Battin
Susanna Battin uses video, installation, writing, painting, and social action to produce her research-driven projects, which focus on landscape optics and Romantic-period ethics. She began working with site interventions in 2011 with Window, a project that optically repaired a mountain horizon with a digital billboard. She has since orchestrated spatial interventions in the cities of Pasadena (2013) and Cassano d’Adda, Italy (2013). She has exhibited moving-image and performance work at Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Los Angeles; Pieter Space, Los Angeles; Angel's Gate Cultural Center, San Pedro, California; Human Resources, Los Angeles; PhotoLA, Los Angeles; the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and Cal State Long Beach. Her object-based work has recently been shown at Other Places Art Fair, San Pedro, California, and at Colorado College. In 2018 she was the visiting artist in residence at Turning Point School, Culver City, and Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts, where she led exercises in landscape visualization and storytelling. She is active in the self-organizing groups Mother Ditch, NAVED, and OOLA. Her solo exhibition Key Observation Point was on view August 31–September 28, 2018, at Los Angeles Contemporary Archive. Battin lives and works in Los Angeles. She graduated with her master’s in photography and media from Calarts in 2015.

Scope and Content
Key Observation Point originated from artist Susanna Battin's interest in the "Landscape Scenic Quality Scale", a metric pioneered by a group of landscape architects and foresters in the late 20th century who sought to quantify beauty as a means of environmental protection. The scale’s system, language, and founding ideology are now embedded in the political process of legitimizing development projects of high impact. The Chiquita Canyon Landfill’s most recent Environmental Impact Report uses the "Landscape Scenic Quality Scale" to break down the site’s surrounding areas into seven key observation points.

Situated within the Los Angeles Contemporary Archive physical collection, Battin presented a series of landscape renderings that investigated these observation points and perspectives. Vividity, intactness, and unity are the three guiding principles through which a landscape’s beauty is understood as scenic fact. Using the report’s descriptions as a script for painting, Battin questioned the forensic motives of transfiguring space into language and data, while exploring the pictorial traditions that inform human relationships with nature.

The Los Angeles Contemporary Archive (LACA), a non-profit organization, is an artist-run archive and non-circulating library in which contemporary creative processes are recorded and preserved for the study and dissemination of materials documenting contemporary art production. Challenging established concepts of the archive and art space, LACA sustains a unique experimental environment for critical inquiry, artistic research, and public dialogue that offers a comprehensive view into artistic activity today. In keeping with this, LACA only acquires materials produced around or after its founding in 2013.

Materials include research and exhibition materials, a painting, and children’s classroom drawings.
This archive is currently in process.