

Erratic Fields

Walking in the Dust

**Nature Walk, Picnic,
and Conversations**

Speakers

Rosela del Bosque

Johnnie Chatman

Lael Corbin

Alison B. Hirsch

Jessica Sevilla

April 27, 2024

9:45 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

**Mission Trails Regional
Park, San Diego**

**Free and Open to the Public.
Registration is required.**



INSITE COMMONPLACES
The Sedimentary Effect

This event has been organized in collaboration with the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department and the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation.

Walking in the Dust is a daylong experience centered on conversations about the aesthetic, social, and cultural circulation of landscape and nature affecting living conditions and collective imaginaries in Southern California and Baja California. The event is part of “Erratic Fields,” one of three chapters of the INSITE Commonplaces project, *The Sedimentary Effect*.

Beginning with a guided **Nature Walk** in selected areas of Mission Trails Regional Park, park staff will guide participants through the history of this protected site of grasslands, chaparral, and oak woodlands—a place first inhabited by the Kumeyaay and later by Spanish missionaries in the 1800s.

At mid-day, a hosted **Picnic** will be served, while participants learn about the curatorial concepts behind INSITE’s “Erratic Fields” project and meet several of the artists involved.

As part of the **Conversations** that follow, invited artists and theorists Alison B. Hirsch, Rosela del Bosque, Johnnie Chatman, Lael Corbin, and Jessica Sevilla will discuss their research and projects focused on the erratic landscape of the “Californias.” All are currently collaborating on INSITE Commonplaces through artist Commissions, new writing for the INSITE *Journal*, and interviews for *The Sedimentary Effect*.

Walking in the Dust is realized as part of *The Sedimentary Effect*, the INSITE Commonplaces project being developed in the border region with artists, architects, urbanists, naturalists, and theorists from 2022 to 2026. Andrea Torreblanca, INSITE’s Director of Curatorial Projects, conceived *The Sedimentary Effect* as a three-chapter project based on local microhistories about natural phenomena, architecture, and spirituality. This event is part of “Erratic Fields,” one chapter exploring how acts of nature, geology, and landscape intersect the geopolitics, social imaginary, and history of the region.

“Erratic Fields” began in 2022 with an invitation to artists and curators from both sides of the border to engage in **Conversations** at Punta Mazo in San Quintin, BC., a vast area protected by naturalists from the non-profit Terra Peninsular and once home to groups of the first hunter-gatherers. The site includes extinct volcanoes, coastal dunes, native flora and fauna, and artisanal fishing farms, all in proximity to the Pacific Ocean. The exchange and **Conversations** led to new commissions that are currently in progress, some of which will be shared publicly for the first time during **Walking in the Dust**.

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Cover photo: Lael Corbin, *Object #3, Glamis California, 12mph*, May 22, 2020

Program Description

Walking in the Dust

9:45 a.m. Arrival

10:00–11:30 a.m.

Guided **Nature Walk**

Meeting point: East Fortuna Staging Area MTRP (Free parking available here, directions below)

A 90-minute guided nature walk around Mission Trails Regional Park. The park staff lead participants through the historic and cultural background of the park's rugged hills, valleys, and open areas that reflect a San Diego that existed before the landing of the Spaniard Cabrillo in San Diego Bay in 1542. The nature walk will include the Grasslands Trail, the Kumeyaay grinding rocks area, and an overlook of the Old Mission Dam, a historic landmark built in approximately 1803.

The walk on the trails is easy, but there are some uneven surfaces and a few steps. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes and a hat, and use sunscreen.

12:00 noon

Picnic

Meeting point: East Fortuna Staging Area

Following the walk, the group returns to the East Fortuna Staging Area for a hosted picnic. INSITE's Director of Curatorial Projects, Andrea Torreblanca, will briefly share her vision for *The Sedimentary Effect* project, focusing on the "Erratic Fields" chapter.

This is also an opportunity to view artist Roman de Salvo's permanent installation, *Fountain Mountain* (2020). (De Salvo participated in inSITE94 and INSITE2000.)

Conversations

Meeting point: Visitor Center Theatre

Free shuttles will be available from East Fortuna Area parking beginning at 1:00 p.m. to the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center (1 Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, CA 92119) where the afternoon screening and Conversations will take place.

2:00 p.m.

Introduction

Michael Krichman,
Executive Director, INSITE

Jennifer Morrissey,
MTRP Foundation Executive Director

2:15 p.m.

Video Screening

Erratic Fields, 2024 (30 mins.)

A short video produced by INSITE with the participation/voices of Alex Bazán, Rosela del Bosque, Isabel Casso, Johnnie Chatman, Lael Corbin, Periférica Educativa Experimental (César Noyola and Teresa Tavera), Terra Peninsular (Mirna Borrego and Claudia Guzmán), Andrea Torreblanca, and Pastizal Zamudio.

The video features a dialogue between the artists and curators who participated in a collective expedition to San Quintin, Baja California in 2022 where they discussed their interest in local ecologies, geography, and landscape.

3:00 p.m.

Introduction to Conversation

Andrea Torreblanca,
INSITE's Director of Curatorial Projects

3:15 p.m.

Conversation 1

Alison B. Hirsch, Rosela del Bosque, and Jessica Sevilla

Moderator: Andrea Torreblanca

In this **Conversation** panelists will share their interest in reimagining the social, economic, and cultural histories of “irreversible landscapes,” or the wild lands and ecosystems that have been impacted by agriculture, dams, and both industrial and urban development. Focusing on their research in California’s Central Valley and the area across the Colorado River in the Mexico-U.S. border region, Hirsch, del Bosque, and Sevilla will discuss how intricate labor processes, collective memory, and social resilience and mobility are critical micro-agents for traversing systems of power and conceiving alternative futures.

Alison B. Hirsch (Los Angeles, California). Landscape architectural designer, urban historian, and theorist. PhD, architecture, University of Pennsylvania. Fellow American Academy in Rome (FAAR). Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism at University of Southern California’s School of Architecture. Founder/Director, Landscape Justice Initiative.

Rosela del Bosque (Mexicali, Baja California). Curator and researcher. MA in Advanced Studies in Curating from Zurich University of the Arts. She was recently granted a scholarship by The Centre for Research & Practice to pursue a Certificate in Transdisciplinary Studies.

Jessica Sevilla (Mexicali, Baja California) is an artist and researcher. She holds a Master’s degree from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University, teaches urban history at the Autonomous University of Baja California and is currently a doctoral student, focusing on the production of landscape and the Colorado River in Mexicali.

Conversation 2

Johnnie Chatman and Lael Corbin

Moderator: Andrea Torreblanca

In this **Conversation** the artists will discuss how the American West intersects with their respective research on projects they are currently developing for INSITE. Lael Corbin is creating sculptures for a performative piece to “wrestle” with the Santa Ana winds, a regional phenomenon that ignites California’s wildfires each year, mobilizing miles of dust and particles and affecting the human psyche. Among other interests, Corbin explores the figure of the cowboy, whose performative role of the landscape in cinema has psychologically influenced the way we conceive of the West. Johnnie Chatman’s longstanding interest in reframing the landscape of the American West through self-portraiture is also explored through his interest in the atomic bomb at the Nevada test site and the ripple effects that this landscape of awe and terror produced in the geological strata and the cultural and social realm.

Lael Corbin (San Diego) is an artist. He currently teaches sculpture and photography in the Department of Art & Design at Point Loma Nazarene University.

Johnnie Chatman (Los Angeles) is an artist and researcher. He is a Katzin Fellow and doctoral student in art history, theory, and criticism with an emphasis in art practice at the University of California San Diego.

5:00 p.m.

Wine Reception
on the Visitor Center Terrace

More Info +

Visitors attending the full day's events (Nature Walk, Picnic, and Conversations) should arrive at the East Fortuna Staging Area MTRP at 9:45 a.m. (free parking available).

Visitors attending the Conversations only can park at the East Fortuna Staging Area and take the free shuttle to the Visitor Center. You may also park at the Visitor Center or Jackson Drive parking lots, though parking will be at a premium.

INSITE

Information: info@insiteart.org

Website: <https://insiteart.org/>

Mission Trails Regional Park

Website <https://mtrp.org/>

Free Parking

at East Fortuna Staging Area, MTRP

[https://maps.app.goo.gl/](https://maps.app.goo.gl/scdKetcqFieaZVa49)

[scdKetcqFieaZVa49](https://maps.app.goo.gl/scdKetcqFieaZVa49)

Visitor Center

[https://maps.app.goo.gl/](https://maps.app.goo.gl/fFKVri2q12gRqJe66)

[fFKVri2q12gRqJe66](https://maps.app.goo.gl/fFKVri2q12gRqJe66)

Get tickets here.