

BALLROOM MARFA

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PRESS CONTACT: press@ballroommarfa.org, +1 (432) 729 3600

Ecstatic Land

On view: October 26, 2022 – May 7, 2023

Opening celebration: Saturday, November 12, 2022, 4–7pm

Marfa, TX— Ballroom Marfa presents *Ecstatic Land*, an exhibition and screening series that brings together a multigenerational group of artists whose works explore the intersecting vitalities of the land and self. Participating artists include **Laura Aguilar, Genesis Báez, Teresa Baker, Dineo Seshee Bopape, Christie Blizzard, The Frank Duncan Archive, Nancy Holt, Katherine Hubbard, Isuma, Benny Merris, Alan Michelson, Laura Ortman, Elle Pérez, Sondra Perry,** and **David Benjamin Sherry.**

The word *ecstatic* comes from the Greek ἔκστασις [ekstasis], meaning “to stand outside oneself.” In nature, and particularly in the vast expanses of the desert, one can experience physical contact with the earth while being emotionally and psychologically transported elsewhere. This affect, present in the artworks in *Ecstatic Land*, connects material and exterior sites with interior, emotional, psychic states. Land is celebrated as a living force, and the exhibiting artists’ photographs, paintings, films, videos, sculptures, and sounds harmonize the pleasures of seeing what’s around us with those of inward reflection.

Western art-historical traditions of the landscape genre largely focus on the framing of particular views of nature, often as demonstrations of power and control. And while the artists in *Ecstatic Land* each reference the natural world, they are not creating landscapes per se. Rather than reproducing or framing views, their works reveal new subjectivities and methods for perceiving shared environments. These artworks transport us beyond sight, reconnecting us to the world through embodied experiences. Challenging and expanding single-point perspectives, these artists offer personal views that would otherwise be invisible, intangible or overlooked. Their approaches run counter to the privatization, misuse and over-consumption of common spaces and resources. *Ecstatic Land* proposes ways to live dynamically, critically, queerly, and consciously on and with the land.

Ecstatic Land is co-organized by Guest Curator Dean Daderko and Ballroom Marfa Executive Director and Curator Daisy Nam, with assistance from Alexann Susholtz, Ballroom Marfa Curatorial and Exhibitions Assistant.

Screening Series Fall Schedule

Outdoors Screenings in Ballroom Marfa Courtyard

October 26– 29, 2022

Alan Michelson, *Wolf Nation*, 2018. HD video, 9:59 minutes. Sound by Laura Ortman.

November 2– 5, 2022

Genesis Báez, *Clouds*, 2019. 4K digital video. Spanish audio with English subtitles, 6:45 minutes.

November 9–12, 2022

Sondra Perry, *I Make Land Art Now*, 2015. Color, sound, HD video, 2:41 minutes. Courtesy of the artist and Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI), New York

Christie Blizzard, *Plant songs, 2021-2022*. Single channel video, 16 minutes. Courtesy of the artist.

Indoor Screening

Tuesday, November 22, 2022, 6–8pm at Marfa Public Library

Isuma, *A Day in the Life of Noah Pittuagatuk*, 2019. Directed by Zacharias Kunuk. Video, 113 minutes. Courtesy of the artists and Vtape.

Acknowledgments

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Ballroom Marfa

108 E. San Antonio St., P.O. Box 1661, Marfa, TX 79843

TEL +1 432 729 3600, info@ballroommarfa.org

ballroommarfa.org

Press Info & Images

Dropbox [here](#)

For further information about the exhibition or to schedule interviews, please contact Ballroom Marfa at press@ballroommarfa.org.

About Ballroom Marfa

Founded in 2003 by Virginia Lebermann and Fairfax Dorn, Ballroom Marfa is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and a dynamic, contemporary cultural arts space housed in a converted dancehall that dates to 1927. Ballroom Marfa's mission is to serve international, national, regional, and local arts communities and support the work of both emerging and recognized artists working across all media: visual arts, film, music, and performance.

Location, Hours, Admission

Ballroom Marfa is located at 108 E. San Antonio St. / Highway 90 West. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 am–6 pm. Admission is free.