



## Robert Smithson: The Collected Writings

By Robert Smithson

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Since the 1979 publication of *The Writings of Robert Smithson*, Robert Smithson's significance as a spokesman for a generation of artists has been widely acknowledged and the importance of his thinking to contemporary artists and art critics continues to grow. In addition to a new introduction by Jack Flam, *The Collected Writings* includes previously unpublished essays by Smithson and gathers hard-to-find articles, interviews, and photographs. Together these provide a full picture of his wide-ranging views on art and culture.

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## **Editorial Review**

### Amazon.com Review

Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty* is the poster child for the antiformalist Earth Art movement of the 1960s and 1970s. A coil of earth, salt, and stone that Smithson built into Great Salt Lake, Utah, the piece is a tribute to the movement's scale and engineering as well as to its visionary union of art and nature. Smithson's questioning of the conventional attitudes of art and culture did not stop with the creation of objects and images; he was committed to exploring of attitudes and ideas as a critical component of his work. A revised and expanded version of *The Writings of Robert Smithson*, this book is a charged combination of articles and images in which the author demystifies the distinction between theory and practice.

### Review

"Smithson read widely and used that reading to create a style of criticism that is unique and deeply personal. 'One must remember,' he says, 'that writing on art replaces presence by absence by substituting the abstraction of language for the real thing.' His own vivid and very beautiful prose often provides some equivalent for that presence."--David Carrier, "Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism

### From the Inside Flap

"An argument could be made that Robert Smithson is at least as important as a thinker and critic as he is as an artist, and in the art history of the Seventies, his words are certain to be returned to and returned to. He is one of those figures whose thought at once defines and transcends his own time."—Arthur C. Danto, author of *Playing with the Edge: The Photographic Achievement of Robert Mapplethorpe*

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