

LA 289 Design Studio spring 2015

reading the landscape

instructor: Leslie Ryan
lryan@uoregon.edu



All design sites have histories and conditions that precede the designer's arrival. Places are accumulations of human presence, inhabitation by non-human species, and continual geological, hydrological, and climatic forces and pressures.

Reading a landscape requires looking back at the natural and cultural histories of a place and, at the same time, projecting into an imagined future.

The site for this studio is the 12 mile long **Ridgeline Trail** situated along the hills of Eugene's southern boundary. The studio will imagine and consider the trail as a narrative consisting of moments of particular beauty or interest, places where histories are perceived, and where invisible presences are revealed. Within this larger context, students will propose

a series of interventions

that use addition or subtraction to mark or reveal what is seen and unseen. Each site proposal will be a response to the particularities of the place.

We will investigate the work of landscape architects and artists who have developed methods of reading a landscape and its past, and responding to its particularities in ways that range from unexpected to educational to poetic. These references will include:

- Landscape architects Georges Descombes, Gunther Vogt, Stoss, PROAP, Gilles Clement, Richard Haag...
- Temporary garden exhibitions, such as the Chaumont-sur-Loire International Garden Festival in France, Jardins de Métis in Quebec, and Cornerstone Gardens in CA...
- Artists such as Robert Smithson, Maya Lin, Buster Simpson, Stacy Levy, Chris Drury, Amy Franchesini and Future Farmers, Daniel McCormick and Mary O'Brien, George Trakas, Andy Goldsworthy and Ian Hamilton Finlay...
- The Spontaneous Intervention projects from the 2012 Venice Biennale...
- and others...

