Some of you may be considering a “side” trip out to Marfa, Texas. The tagline offered by the “Visit Marfa” website describes the town perfectly:

*Marfa: tough to get to. Tougher to explain. But once you get here, you get it.*

It’s essential not to romanticize that this is a quick side trip from the conference. It’s close to 500 miles between Fort Worth and Marfa. Even in Texas terms, it’s far. I have often likened the distance between the small towns out there similar to what I imagine interstellar space travel is like. I’ve taken the trip several times now in the car, and I absolutely love the expansive vastness. I really recommend it as a road trip. You could fly, but it’s a lot of trouble. Most people fly into Midland/Odessa, sometimes El Paso, and rent a car for the rest of the journey. From either city it’s a long car trip to your final destination (both are about 190 miles to Marfa). I’ve also heard about taking Amtrak, which sounds like fun. It looks like the nearest stop is in Alpine, a little town about twenty-five miles east of Marfa.

So you’ve got to plan it out and allow plenty of time. If you decide to go, start with the few sites below to help orient you to the town and environs. The area has plenty of attractions to keep you busy, but a trip to Marfa (at least to me) is more about communing with the landscape. If you go, it’s essential to visit the Chinati Foundation and Judd Foundation properties. Another popular attraction is the McDonald Observatory, a University of Texas at Austin facility.

http://www.marfacc.com/

http://www.visitmarfa.com/

https://www.chinati.org/

http://www.juddfoundation.org/marfa

http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/

Some of you may know that years ago the Texas-Mexico chapter advised the Judd Foundation on cataloging and preserving Donald Judd’s personal library. The Judd Foundation launched—years after the chapter’s contact with the foundation—the following resource which allows virtual access to the collection:

http://library.juddfoundation.org/JUDDlibbrowse/

The library is part of the Judd Foundation tour of The Block, but I do not think they allow you to handle the collection.
I would be happy to share my experiences about the area. Drop me a line at samuel.duncan@cartermuseum.org. Actually, any Texas-Mexico chapter member will likely be able to help.

Samuel Duncan
Library Director
Amon Carter Museum of American Art
3501 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76107
t. 817.989.5042  f. 817.989.5039
www.cartermuseum.org