The Spiral Jetty Partnership
Dia Art Foundation is the owner and steward of Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty*. In 2012, Dia formed a partnership with two Salt Lake City-based organizations: The Great Salt Lake Institute (GSLI) at Westminster College and the Utah Museum of Fine Arts (UMFA) at the University of Utah.

Great Salt Lake Institute (GSLI) at Westminster College is dedicated to connecting people to Great Salt Lake through research and education. In achieving this mission, it fosters interdisciplinary collaborations that engage academia and the public. Within this partnership, GSLI spearheads research and outreach opportunities and frequents *Spiral Jetty* as part of these efforts. Their experience and close physical proximity make GSLI an ideal collaborator for Dia, particularly with regard to environmental issues, maintenance, and site accessibility.

Utah Museum of Fine Arts (UMFA) at the University of Utah, the fine arts museum for both the state and the University of Utah, is a vibrant hub for cultural exchange among campus and community audiences. The UMFA maintains a cultural presence for *Spiral Jetty* in Salt Lake City, at the museum, and on its website. Additionally, the UMFA upholds the cultural reputation of *Spiral Jetty* within Utah, collaborating with Dia on public programs and the development of curricula around the artwork.

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands within the Department of Natural Resources (FFSL) has management jurisdiction over lands below the Great Salt Lake (GSL) meander line. GSL is a unique and complex ecosystem of regional and hemispherical importance. Sustainable use of GSL’s natural resources ensure that the ecological health, scenic attributes, extractive industries, and recreation opportunities will be maintained into the future. FFSL coordinates with other state, federal and local entities to ensure that the management of these resources will provide lasting benefit to the Public Trust.
March 10, 1970

To Whom it may Concern:

My project is an "earthwork sculpture" that will resemble a jetty in the shape of a spiral. It will be some 300 feet long and 150 feet wide extending from the water's edge into the lake. It will be made of rock and gravel. Salt crystals will grow on the rock and contrast with the red color of the water. Its purpose is aesthetic, it may be viewed from airplains or from the road.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Smithson
Spiral Jetty; a story of bugs, beer, building relationships and buses

Laura Ault
Sovereign Lands Program Manager
Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
Why Forestry, Fire and State Lands?
Those lands that were navigable at Statehood:

- Bear Lake
- Bear River (Idaho State Line to GSL)
- Great Salt Lake
- Jordan River
- Green River (Portions)
- Colorado River (Portions)
- Moab Exchange Lands
GSL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES


The division has the following powers and duties:

1. Prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan for the lake which recognizes the following policies:
   a. develop strategies to deal with a fluctuating lake level;
   b. encourage development of the lake in a manner which will preserve the lake, encourage availability of brines to lake extraction industries, protect wildlife, and protect recreational facilities;
   c. maintain the lake's flood plain as a hazard zone;
   d. promote water quality management for the lake and its tributary streams;
   e. promote the development of lake brines, minerals, chemicals, and petro-chemicals to aid the state's economy;
   f. encourage the use of appropriate areas for extraction of brine, minerals, chemicals, and petro-chemicals;
   g. maintain the lake and the marshes as important to the waterfowl flyway system;
   h. encourage the development of an integrated industrial complex;
   i. promote and maintain recreation areas on and surrounding the lake;
   j. encourage safe boating use of the lake;
   k. maintain and protect state, federal, and private marshlands, rookeries, and wildlife refuges;
   l. provide public access to the lake for recreation, hunting, and fishing.

2. Employ personnel and purchase equipment and supplies which the Legislature authorizes through appropriations for the purposes of this chapter.

3. Initiate studies of the lake and its related resources.

4. Publish scientific and technical information concerning the lake.

5. Define the lake's flood plain.

6. Qualify for, accept, and administer grants, gifts, or other funds from the federal government and other sources, for carrying out any functions under this chapter.

7. Determine the need for public works and utilities for the lake area.

8. Implement the comprehensive plan through state and local entities or agencies.

9. Coordinate the activities of the various divisions within the Department of Natural Resources with respect to the lake.

10. Perform all other acts reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes and provisions of this chapter.

11. Retain and encourage the continued activity of the Great Salt Lake technical team.
Fast Forward to 2011
N.Y. arts group has epic problem with Utah brewery

Arts • Legal action threatened over label's image of Spiral Jetty.

By Glen Warchol The Salt Lake Tribune • March 15, 2011 6:19 pm
Control of iconic sculpture Spiral Jetty in dispute

The Dia Foundation may have failed to renew its lease.

By Glen Warchol The Salt Lake Tribune

June 9, 2011 9:58 am
Spiral Jetty Has Lease Problems, Just Like Your Sublet

Could the Dia Foundation lose its lease to the most iconic work of land art ever? The Utah Department of Natural Resources recently informed Dia that it had failed to renew its lease on the land that holds Robert Smithson’s “Spiral Jetty” (1970) in Rozel Point, Utah.

The Salt Lake Tribune first noticed the problem, and was quick to inform a shocked Dia spokesperson. As it turns out, the state claims that Dia had failed to pay an annual $250 fee to upkeep its claim on the land. Sounds pretty much like a nasty security deposit conflict on a Brooklyn sublet. Can Dia and Utah forgive and forget? Will the Jetty end up on Craigslist?

The Tribune writes that “Dia had also failed to respond to the state’s automatically generated notice in February that its 20-year lease on the lake bed had run out, said [Utah DNR] division spokesman Jason Curry.” Tyler Green of Modern Art Notes has the whole story, though.
Closed negotiations on iconic Spiral Jetty continue between state and Dia art foundation

But the public will get an opportunity for input on the massive land artwork.
Agreement reached to protect Utah's iconic Spiral Jetty

Great Salt Lake • Westminster College and art museum new partners in preservation.
DIA ART FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES COLLABORATION WITH THE GREAT SALT LAKE INSTITUTE AND THE UTAH MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Collaboration will ensure the long-term preservation of Robert Smithson’s iconic artwork, the Spiral Jetty

A community information session with participating institutions will be held Thursday, February 2, 2012, at 7 pm at the Salt Lake

Jan 12, 2012

NEW YORK, NY– Dia Art Foundation will work with two Salt Lake City-based organizations, The Great Salt Lake Institute (GSLI) at Westminster College and the Utah Museum of Fine Arts (UMFA) at the University of Utah, as part of its ongoing stewardship of the Spiral Jetty. Dia, GSLI, and UMFA envision a collaboration that builds on the existing and complementary relationships between the institutions that date back to 2008.

Robert Smithson, the Spiral Jetty, 1970. Long-term installation in Rozel Point, Box Elder County, Utah. Collection Dia Art Foundation, New York. Photo: George Steinmetz. The monumental earthwork the Spiral Jetty (1970) was created by artist Robert Smithson (1938–1973) and is located off Rozel Point in the north arm of the Great Salt Lake. Made of black basalt rocks and earth gathered from the site, the Spiral Jetty is a 15-foot-wide coil that stretches more than 1,500 feet into the lake. Its exceptional art historical importance, unique beauty, and remote location have drawn visitors and media attention from throughout Utah and around the world.

Since acquiring the earthwork as a gift from the artist’s estate in 1999, Dia has leased the land upon which the artwork sits from the State of Utah. When the lease expired earlier this year, Dia and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands negotiated a replacement through a noncompetitive process, which was signed December 22, 2011.

As the State of Utah continues its Comprehensive Management Plan for the Great Salt Lake, Dia is formalizing collaborations with two prominent Utah-based organizations that have previously supported its stewardship efforts of the Spiral Jetty. Such local representation will ensure the concerns and needs of this iconic American artwork are met.

“Dia and the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands share the same goal—maintaining the integrity of an iconic work of art,” said Philippe Vergne, director of Dia. “As Dia continues and deepens its stewardship of the Spiral Jetty, collaborations with local institutions establish a presence on the ground. Both the UMFA and Westminster’s GSLI have been great advocates for Robert Smithson and the Spiral Jetty, and we look forward to working with them to make sure that the earthwork, as well as Smithson’s larger oeuvre, is more available to audiences.”

Within this collaboration, Westminster’s Great Salt Lake Institute will spearhead the vast biological and research opportunities that surround the Spiral Jetty. GSLI is active in promoting the Great Salt Lake as an important resource, and Westminster faculty and students frequent the Spiral Jetty as part of ongoing education, research, and preservation efforts. The GSLI’s hands-on experience and close physical proximity make it an ideal collaborator for Dia, particularly with regard to environmental issues, restoration, and site maintenance.
Bonnie K. Baxter, Ph.D., Director
Jaimi Butler, Coordinator
From New York City I called the Utah Park Development and spoke to Ted Tuttle, who told me that water in the Great Salt Lake north of the Lucin Cutoff, which cuts the lake in two, was the color of tomato soup. That was enough of a reason to go out there and have a look.

—Robert Smithson
And each cubic salt crystal echoes the Spiral Jetty in terms of the crystal’s molecular lattice.

—Robert Smithson
[Nothing about Pelicans]

–Robert Smithson
A series of seeps of heavy black oil more like asphalt occur just south of Rozel Point. For forty or more years people have tried to get oil out of this natural tar pool...This site gave evidence of a succession of man-made systems mired in abandoned hopes.

-Robert Smithson
Governor examines proposal to drill for oil near 'Jetty'

Critics say artwork, viewers would be negatively impacted

By
Published: April 15, 2008 12:00 am
Updated: April 15, 2008 12:38 a.m.
Great Salt Lake Institute (GSLI) Role in SJP

1. **Stewardship**: As a frequent visitor to Spiral Jetty, we monitor the area for FFSL and Dia Art Foundation.

2. **Communication**: We notify partners of land use changes, road condition/accessibility issues, unauthorized activities, or local happenings GSLI that may impact the artwork.

3. **Collaboration**: We collaborate on K–12 teacher education, research, and development of curricula.
Example GSLI-involved SJP Projects

1. Science of the site (DiaTalk)
2. Incorporate science in UMFA backpacks
3. Shared ArtScience Intern
4. SALT ArtScience grant
5. ArtScience Teacher trainings with UMFA
6. Car counter
7. Children's book
8. DiaTeens + GSLI students
Weekly Totals*

Avg. daily traffic: 33.8

Daily:
- Sa (29%)
- Su (23%)
- Fr (12%)
- Mo (11%)
- Th (9%)
- We (8%)
- Tu (7%)

Hourly**

Average daily traffic: 33.8

Monthly*

Yearly*

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT); Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
** Based on last year of data only.
Thank you for sending us the videos about tar seeps!

OUR RESPONSE

1. What is the relationship between tar and salt in this landscape? Why is it there?
2. We’re interested in using this as an art material. What is it like? How does it behave? Can you touch it? Can you make a sculpture out of it?
Whitney Tassie
Senior Curator,
Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art
Robert Smithson (American, 1938-1973)

Leaning Mirror, 1969
Sand and mirrors, 33 x 88 x 108 inches
Dia Art Foundation; Partial gift, Lannan Foundation, 2013. © Holt/Smithson Foundation/Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY.
Photo: Bill Jacobson Studio, New York
Gallery talk by Kelly Kivland, Associate Curator Dia Art Foundation

March 18, 2014

*Leaning Mirror*, 1969
Installation view, UMFA modern and contemporary gallery
Spiral Jetty, 1970
Rozel Point, Great Salt Lake, Box Elder County, Utah
Black basalt rock, salt crystals, earth, and water
1,500 feet long and approximately 15 feet wide
Dia Art Foundation

Dia Art Foundation
Spiral Jetty entered the collection of Dia Art Foundation through the generosity of Nancy Holt and the Estate of Robert Smithson in 1999. Founded in 1974, Dia is committed to advancing, realizing, and preserving the vision of artists. Dia fulfills its mission by commissioning single artist projects, organizing exhibitions, realizing site-specific installations, and collecting in-depth the work of a focused group of artists of the 1960s and 1970s. For more information, visit www.diaart.org.

PARTNERSHIPS
Dia partners with Great Salt Lake Institute at Westminster College, Holt/Smithson Foundation, and the Utah Museum of Fine Arts at the University of Utah to further advocate for Spiral Jetty.

Great Salt Lake Institute, Westminster College
Great Salt Lake Institute advises on environmental issues, site maintenance, and accessibility pertaining to Spiral Jetty. For more information, visit www.greatsaltlake-institute.org.

Holt/Smithson Foundation
Holt/Smithson Foundation exists to continue the creative and investigative spirit of the artists Nancy Holt and Robert Smithson. For more information, visit www.holtsmithsonfoundation.org.

Utah Museum of Fine Arts, University of Utah
The Utah Museum of Fine Arts ensures that Spiral Jetty's cultural reputation is upheld locally and promotes the exceptional significance of the artwork within Utah. For more information, visit www.utahmuseumfinearts.org.

AFFILIATION
Department of Natural Resources
The Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands within the Department of Natural Resources oversees the tidelands where Spiral Jetty is located. For more information, visit www.naturalresources.utah.gov.

Directions to Spiral Jetty
Spiral Jetty is an approximately 2.5-hour drive from Salt Lake City.
1. From Salt Lake City, take I-15 north for 65 miles.
2. Take Exit 365. Turn right onto UT Route 13 (toward Corinne). Last gas station is in Corinne.
3. Continue west for 18 miles (UT Route 13 becomes Highway 83). Follow signs to the Golden Spike National Historic Site (GSNHS) Visitor Center.
4. Turn left onto Golden Spike Road and continue 7.7 miles to the GSNHS Visitor Center. Last bathrooms are at the visitor center. Cell reception ends.
5. From the visitor center, drive 5.6 miles west on the main gravel road (N Golden Spike Loop). At fork in road, continue left (west). There are signs directing you to Spiral Jetty.
6. Drive 1.4 miles. At fork in road, turn right (southwest).
7. Continue driving for approximately 9 miles. The road will curve north around Rozel Point.
8. The road ends at a cul-de-sac parking lot directly above Spiral Jetty.

Tips for your visit
Dia is proud to be the owner and steward of Robert Smithson’s Spiral Jetty. We rely on your help to preserve the artwork for all of us now and for future generations. Please leave Spiral Jetty and the natural environment exactly as you found it. Visitors must “leave no trace” at the site. Carry out any waste with you. Do not take existing rocks from the artwork, make fires, or trample vegetation. Guests are advised to bring water, food, and waterproof boots, along with weather-appropriate clothing.
For general inquiries related to Spiral Jetty, contact spiraljetty@diaart.org.

Cowan: Robert Smithson, Spiral Jetty, 1970 Great Salt Lake Utah, Dia Art Foundation © Holt/Smithson Foundation and Dia Art Foundation/Licensed by VAGA, New York. Photo: George Deisner
Robert Smithson's distinct definition of entropy, drawn from popular science and science fiction alike, fixated on the chance operations of nature that lead to a state of transformation. Created at a time when water levels were particularly low, the artwork was submerged from 1972 onward, visible only through photographic and film documentation. However, regional droughts thirty years later caused the lake to recede such that a salt-encrusted Spiral Jetty reappeared in 2002 for the first prolonged period in its history. Existing in a state of continual change, Spiral Jetty makes entropy visible and encourages visitors to repeatedly explore the work.

Smithson often suggested that by responding to the landscape rather than imposing itself upon it, Spiral Jetty is a site to actively walk on rather than a sculpture to behold. The act of traversing the artwork was enacted in Smithson's film Spiral Jetty (1970), which was made in the months following the completion of the sculpture. Alongside aerial footage of Spiral Jetty is a poetic sequence of the artist running along the spiral to rest at its innermost coil. In an interview with Kenneth Baker, Smithson explained how the visitor's experience of space shifts as one walks through the work: a "construction or concentration exists within the inner coils . . . whereas on the outer edge you're kind of thrown out, you're aware of the horizons and how they echo through the Jetty."

Immediately following its completion, Spiral Jetty was deemed a momentous achievement in specialized art magazines, the popular press, as well as among his peers. Today it continues to be recognized as an iconic artwork. Disappearing and reemerging, bound to site and circulated in documentation, the work exists in a state of permanent flux. "One apprehends what is around one's eyes and ears," wrote Smithson, "no matter how unstable or fugitive."

notes
Details of UMFA experiential guide

Exploring Spiral Jetty | Depending on when you visit, Spiral Jetty can be completely submerged or sitting on a dry lakebed. If you are able to go down to the beach, try walking out on the jetty, but remember you might get wet. What is a jetty? A jetty is a long structure built out into water and used as a place to get on, get off, tie up a boat, or to redirect the tide. Why do you think Smithson titled his piece a “jetty”?

Questions to ask yourself | Is Spiral Jetty larger or smaller than you thought it was from up on the hill? How far can you walk out on the Jetty? Does Great Salt Lake look different from this vantage point than it did from above? Spend some time looking at the landscape around Rozel Point. Why do you think did Robert Smithson choose this site for his masterpiece?

Exploring the landscape | Look to the southwest past Spiral Jetty to spot Gunnnison Island. This island is the only nesting site for American white pelicans in Utah. If you are lucky you will see some pelicans flying overhead. The best time to see them is in spring, summer, or fall.

Now look southeast of Spiral Jetty to locate some pylons in the lakebed. A pylon is a column that is used to support a dock or pier. These wood remnants are left over from an oil exploration operation that shut down in the 1980s.

Now look south/southwest. You might be able to see Antelope Island in the distance, the largest island in Great Salt Lake. Antelope Island is a Utah state park and home to a very unique herd of buffalo. Looking northeast, you can see the Rozel Hills along the shore and Rozel Flat behind the hills.

One of the reasons Smithson chose Rozel Point was its unique landscape and natural history. It is a remote desert on a salt lake with very little noticeable plant or animal life. But if you look close enough, you can see some amazing things around Spiral Jetty.

Pick up sand from the beach and hold it in your palm. Notice its shape and texture. The sand around Spiral Jetty is oolitic sand, a unique type found in only a few places. Oolites are small round grains like very small pearls. The sand begins with a very small grain of sand or brine shrimp excrement and, over many years, slowly rolls around the lake bottom gathering layers of calcium carbonate.

Why is the lake pink? | Sometimes this part of Great Salt Lake is pink or red. The water in the lake is so salty only certain types of non-harmful bacteria, archaea, and algae called halophiles can survive. If you are at Spiral Jetty when the lake is low, you might see more of the pink coloration. Sometimes the salt on the beaches around Spiral Jetty looks pink, indicating these microbes can grow in salt with very little water. This picture is a magnification of halophile colonies growing in a laboratory.

“I like landscapes that suggest prehistory,” said Smithson.1 The artist chose to create Spiral Jetty in Great Salt Lake due in part to the lake's unusual physical qualities, including the reddish coloration of the water caused by bacteria and the crystalized salt deposits that form on the peninsula's black basalt boulders of hardened lava—scattered remnants of the now extinct volcanos in the area. The fractured rocky landscape and fluctuating water levels of Great Salt Lake also appealed to the artist's long-standing preoccupation with entropy.

Why is the lake pink? | Sometimes this part of Great Salt Lake is pink or red. The water in the lake is so salty only certain types of non-harmful bacteria, archaea, and algae called halophiles can survive. If you are at Spiral Jetty when the lake is low, you might see more of the pink coloration. Sometimes the salt on the beaches around Spiral Jetty looks pink, indicating these microbes can grow in salt with very little water. This picture is a magnification of halophile colonies growing in a laboratory.
UMFA Spiral Jetty Backpack Checkout

Name: 

Email: 

Address: 

Phone: 

Date checked out: 

Date due (two weeks from checkout): 

You can checkout the backpack for two weeks from checkout date. Please bring the backpack back with all items intact and wiped down. An invoice may be sent for any missing items (except the take-home items, which are yours to keep).

Signature 

Liked by lakesaltknit, utahmuseumoffinearts and 22 others

loganlibrary.ut We have a spiral jetty backpack available for check out! This backpack is located in the new book area next to the Ereader turnstyle. The backpack can be checked out for a week at a time for any patron wanting to visit the spiral jetty located near Wendover. It has a lot of materials for kids to use and explore while there. #spiraljetty #spiraljettybackpack #checkout #newbookarea #explore #wendover #loganlibrary #loganutah #utah #cachevalley #2019 #february
SPECIAL EVENT

Community Meet-up at Spiral Jetty with the UMFA

Saturday, September 29 | 1 - 4 pm | FREE
Bingham High School Advanced Placement Art History
UMFA Field Trip to *Spiral Jetty*
Monday, April 18, 2016 | 9 am–5 pm
Plan your visit to Spiral Jetty

- Download the self guide for history, directions, and travel tips.
- Download the experiential guide to help you explore the earthwork.
- Check out a Spiral Jetty Family Backpack at the UMFA, the Salt Lake City Public Library, or the Logan Library.
- View our event calendar for upcoming events related to Spiral Jetty.
- Find K–12 resources for teachers and schools.

In 1999, through the generosity of the artist Nancy Holt, Smithson's wife, and the Estate of Robert Smithson, Spiral Jetty was donated to Dia Art Foundation. The Utah Museum of Fine Arts works in collaboration with Dia Art Foundation and Great Salt Lake Institute at Westminster College to preserve, maintain, and advocate for this masterpiece of late twentieth-century art and acclaimed Utah landmark. Dia leases the lake bed where Spiral Jetty is located from the State of Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. Click here to read more about the collaborative efforts to steward Spiral Jetty.

Photographic and video material of Spiral Jetty is copyright protected. For rights and reproduction requests, please contact rights@diaart.org. For general inquiries related to Spiral Jetty, please contact spiraljetty@diaart.org.
Tacita Dean

*JG (offset)*, 2013

14 archival offset prints, each 13 x 31 inches

Purchased with funds from The Phyllis Cannon Wattis Endowment Fund and The Paul L. and Phyllis C. Wattis Fund, UMFA2014.7.1A-N
Spencer Finch, *Great Salt Lake and Vicinity*, 2017
1,132 ready-made Pantone chips and pencil, dimensions variable. Commissioned by the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, University of Utah, Salt Lake City. Purchased with funds from The Phyllis Cannon Wattis Endowment Fund, UMFA2018.4.1
Thank you!

Questions?