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### Page title (usually "Biography")

#### PDF OF CV

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#### Artist

- Nancy Holt  
 Robert Smithson

#### Lifespan

Format as the line should be output, e.g. "(1938 – 2014)" including any desired parentheses, an en/em dash, etc.

**Summary** is displayed on the home page and pages referencing this artist. Text length guideline: 50 words.

**Bio text** is displayed on the artist's full bio page.

#### Summary

Nancy Holt was an artist who rethought the limits and possibilities of art. Born in 1938, Holt was a key member of the Earth, Land, and Conceptual art movements. For five decades she asked difficult questions about how we understand our place in the world. Her art continues to inspire and recalibrate the possibilities of what art can be, and where it can be found.

## Bio text

Format

Robert Smithson (1938-1973).

Holt is an artist known for her earthworks, public sculpture, and installation work. Her large-scale environmental works *Sun Tunnels* (1973-76, Great Basin Desert, Utah) and *Dark Star Park* (1970-84, Arlington County, Virginia) are her most discussed outdoor site-specific sculptures, while other sculptures are permanently installed in locations across Europe and North America. In 2018 *Sun Tunnels* was acquired by Dia Art Foundation, with the support of Holt/Smithson Foundation.

Holt's oeuvre ranges from permanent works to ephemeral gestures: she made films, videos, photography, audio works, concrete poetry, and artists' books. An analytical thinker, Holt began her early work in concrete poetry in 1966 and engaged in conceptual art practices during the mid-seventies. She participated in landmark exhibitions, such as *Language III* at the Dwan Gallery in New York (1969) and *c. 7,500* at California Institute of the Arts in Valencia (1973-74, traveling exhibition curated by Lucy Lippard). Holt made a number of tours and audio works, including *Tour of the John Weber Gallery* (1972) and the *Visual Sound Zones* series (1972-79): looped recordings describing in detail phenomena in a given space that are played back on loudspeakers. In 1971 she began *Buried Poems*, where she wrote poems for friends and buried them in disparate locations in Florida, Utah, and New Jersey. In the 1980s Holt created the influential artist book *Ransacked: Aunt Ethel: An Ending* (1980, Printed Matter in association with Lapp Princess Press, New York) and *Time Outs* (1985, Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester).

Holt's early involvement with photography played a role in later works, which she described as "seeing devices, fixed points for tracking the positions of the sun, earth and stars." These works, that she referred to as Locators, created possibilities for intimate connections to nature, in particular the stars. Holt explained, "I feel that the need to look at the sky—at the moon and the

**Headshot** recommended image dimensions: 1200 x 806.

**HEADSHOT**

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**CAROUSEL IMAGE(S)**

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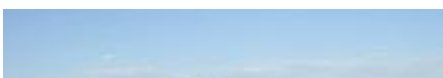
Holt-SunTunnels-portrait-ALister-1200pxW.jpg

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Holt-Nancy\_at\_Up\_and\_Under.jpg

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Quotation

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**Quotation text**

Text length guideline: maximum 50 words

I wanted to bring the vast space of the desert back to human scale.

**Attribution**

Provide the name or work from which the quote was taken. Do not include leading punctuation, i.e. don't start with a dash.

Use the following field for full citations.

Nancy Holt in Sun Tunnels, 1977

**Citation**

Provide an optional full cite for the quote

Format



Published in *Artforum*, April 1977

**Revision information**

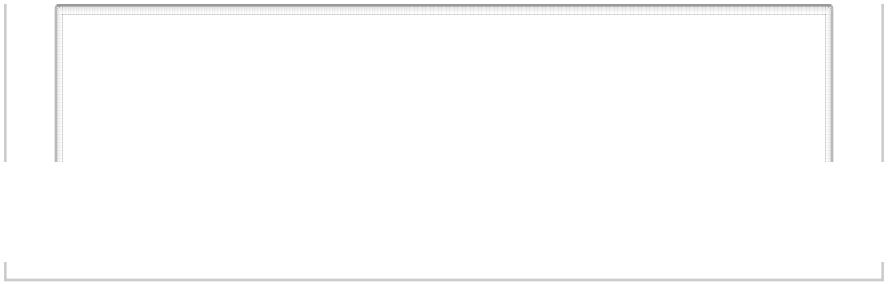
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