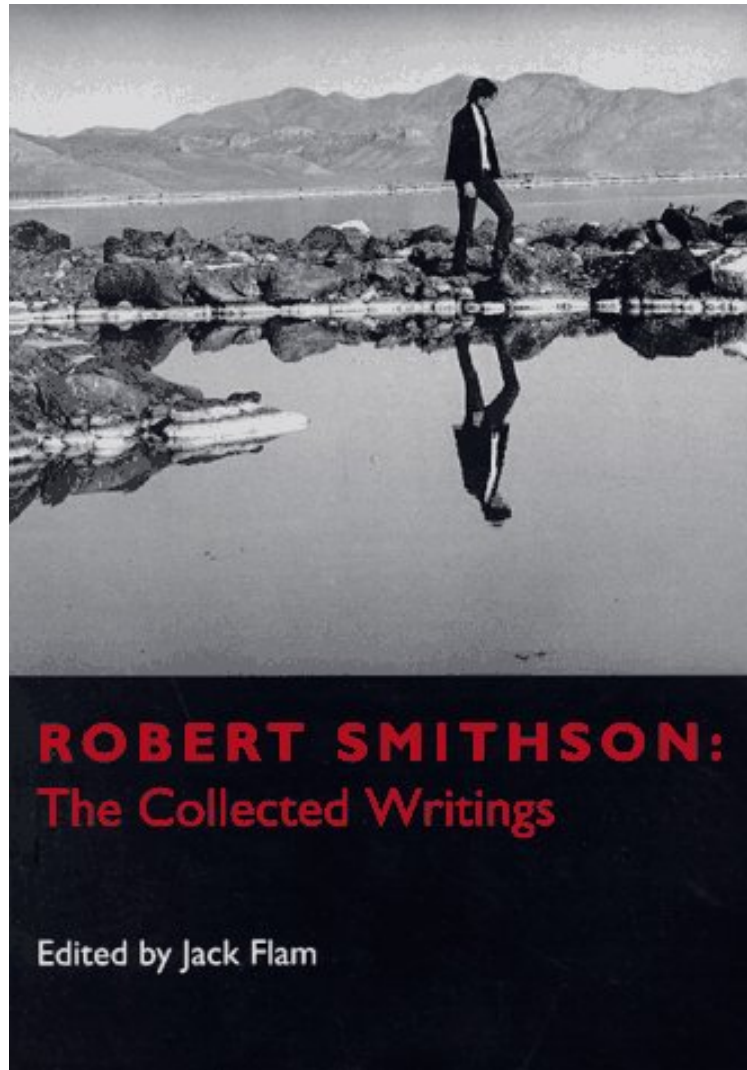


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## Robert Smithson: The Collected Writings

*Robert Smithson*

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**Robert Smithson : Robert Smithson: The Collected Writings** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Robert Smithson: The Collected Writings:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. essentialBy studentThis book is an essential source for one of the leading figures of contemporary art practice in the second half of the twentieth century. In a different way, it is a compilation of writings that prove a successful interest and experimental approach towards the implications of artist's writings: a challenging focus on art-writing and writing as art: a blurring of categories of many sorts.It is important to say that Smithson's qualities as a writer are comparable to his qualities as an artist. It is one of the most important books I own, and it is definitively an excellently compiled source for anyone (...even if barely) interested in the work

of Robert Smithson. 18 of 21 people found the following review helpful. -----By Matthew Sepielli The interviews are what stand out more than anything. The conversation between Smithson and Kaprow is really worth checking out. Anyone who will be having a show of their own should at the very least flip through this book. Also sheds some light into Smithson's early work (some text based things and a few paintings and so forth). Who would have thought that it would be a fun read too? This is the kind of collection you can return to again and again. 4 of 24 people found the following review helpful. His writings printed on archival paper! By A Customer Bought this book for research, a lot to read, all photos are black and white.

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 In addition to a new introduction by Jack Flam, *The Collected Writings* includes previously unpublished essays by Smithson and gathers hard-to-find articles, interviews, and photographs.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.

.com 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. "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*