

A woman with short blonde hair, seen from behind, stands on a grassy hillside. She is wearing a vibrant red, long-sleeved dress. She gazes out over a vast landscape of rolling green hills that stretch into the distance under a pale, hazy sky. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Land Matters

Landscape Photography, Culture and Identity

Liz Wells

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LAND MATTERS

Landscape Photography, Culture and Identity

Liz Wells



In this major work on landscape photography, extensively illustrated in colour and black & white, Liz Wells is concerned with the ways in which photographers engage with issues about land, its representation and idealisation. She demonstrates how the visual interpretation of land as landscape reflects and reinforces contemporary political, social and environmental attitudes. She also asks what is at stake in landscape photography now through placing critical appraisal of key examples of work by photographers working in, for example, the USA, in Europe, Scandinavia and Baltic areas, within broader art historical and political concerns. This illuminating book will interest readers in photography and media, geography, art history and travel, as well as those concerned with environmental issues.

Liz Wells writes and lectures on photographic practices. She edited *The Photography Reader* (2003), and *Photography: A Critical Introduction* (2009, 4th edn.) and is also co-editor of *Photographies*, the Routledge journals. Liz Wells's exhibitions as curator include *Uneasy Spaces* (New York, 2006), *Facing East: Contemporary Landscape Photography from Baltic Areas* (UK tour, 2004-2007), *Chrystel Lebas and Sofija Silvia: Conversations on Nature* (Rijeka, Croatia, 2011) and *Landscapes of Exploration*, recent British art from Antarctica (forthcoming, 2012). She is Professor in Photographic Culture, Faculty of Arts, University of Plymouth, UK, and convenes the research group for Land/Water and the Visual Arts.

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