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“Rick Silva: Western Fronts”

A video journey into contested lands

SALEM, Ore. — The Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University presents “Rick Silva: Western Fronts,” opening August 27 and continuing through December 3, 2022 in the Study Gallery.

In response to the Trump administration’s leaked 2017 Department of the Interior memorandum outlining a plan to shrink four national monuments—Cascade-Siskiyou (Oregon/California), Gold Butte (Nevada), Grand Staircase-Escalante (Utah), and Bears Ears (Utah)—Eugene artist Rick Silva created “Western Fronts,” a video installation that combines vast video landscapes of the American West with digital manipulation and sound.

The beauty and scale of these four spectacular national monuments are captured in aerial drone footage and offer an enveloping sense of awe reminiscent of the work of Frederick Church, Thomas Moran, and other nineteenth century Hudson River School painters who found beauty and majesty in the landscape of the American West. In this contemporary work, Silva

overlays the Western landscape with hard-edged geometric shapes and an ominous rumbling sound design, created by Kuedo + Holy Other, that suggests a futuristic scanning of the land in search of elements that may be useful or meaningful to humanity.

Rick Silva (American, born Brazil, 1977) is an associate professor of art at the University of Oregon in Eugene. He has screened and exhibited his work nationally and internationally at the Centre Pompidou in Paris, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Arkansas, Oregon Contemporary in Portland, and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

A complimentary lecture with Rick Silva will take place on Thursday, October 13, 2022 between 6 and 7 p.m. at the Paulus Lecture Hall (Room 201) at the Willamette University College of Law at 245 Winter St. SE, in Salem, Oregon.

“Rick Silva: Western Fronts” has been organized by Jonathan Bucci, Curator of Collections and Exhibitions. It is on loan from and supported by Art Bridges with additional funds provided by the HFMA Exhibition Fund; by advertising support from the Oregonian/Oregon Live; and by general operating support grants from the City of Salem's Transient Occupancy Tax funds and the Oregon Arts Commission.

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About the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University

As one of the finest academic art museums in the Northwest, the museum features works by Pacific Northwest and Native American artists, and includes a diverse collection of traditional European, American and Asian art, as well as artifacts that date from antiquity. Frequently changing exhibitions include lectures, special events, tours, artist demonstrations, educational opportunities for children and adults, as well as important publications.

The museum is located at 700 State St. in Salem. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. The galleries are closed on Sunday and Monday. People are encouraged to visit the website at <https://willamette.edu/arts/hfma/index.html> for COVID entry updates. General admission is \$6, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for students 18 and older. Students 17 and under and children are admitted free.

Admission is free for everyone on Tuesdays.

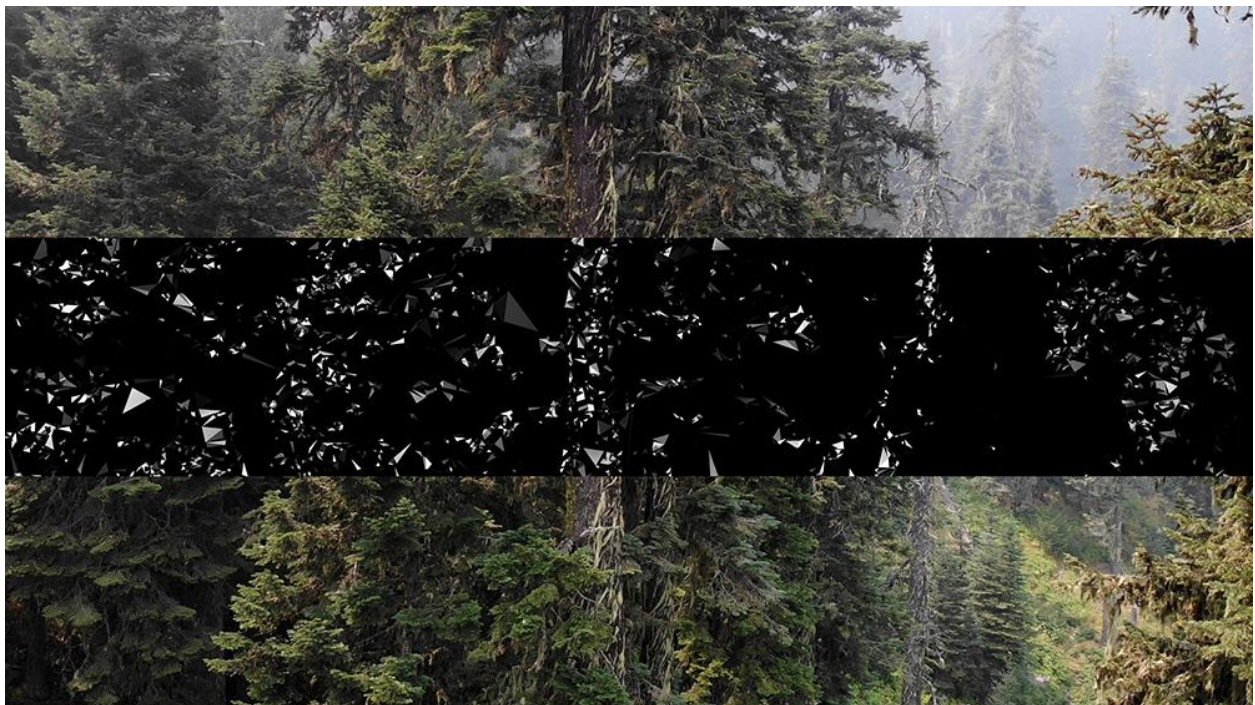
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High Resolution Images

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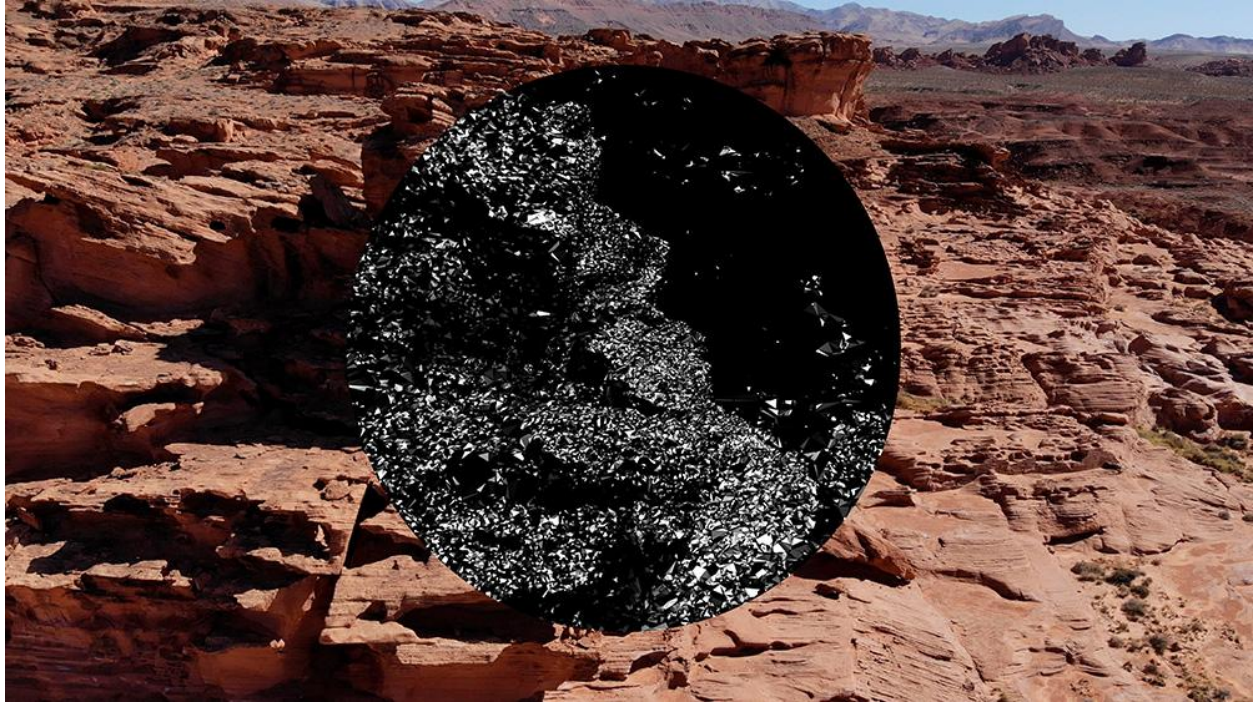
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Rick Silva (b. Brazil, 1977). Still from *Western Fronts (Cascade-Siskiyou)*, 2018. Video, running time: 18:30. Courtesy of the artist.

HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGE AVAILABLE
Contact museum-art@willamette.edu or call 503-370-6855



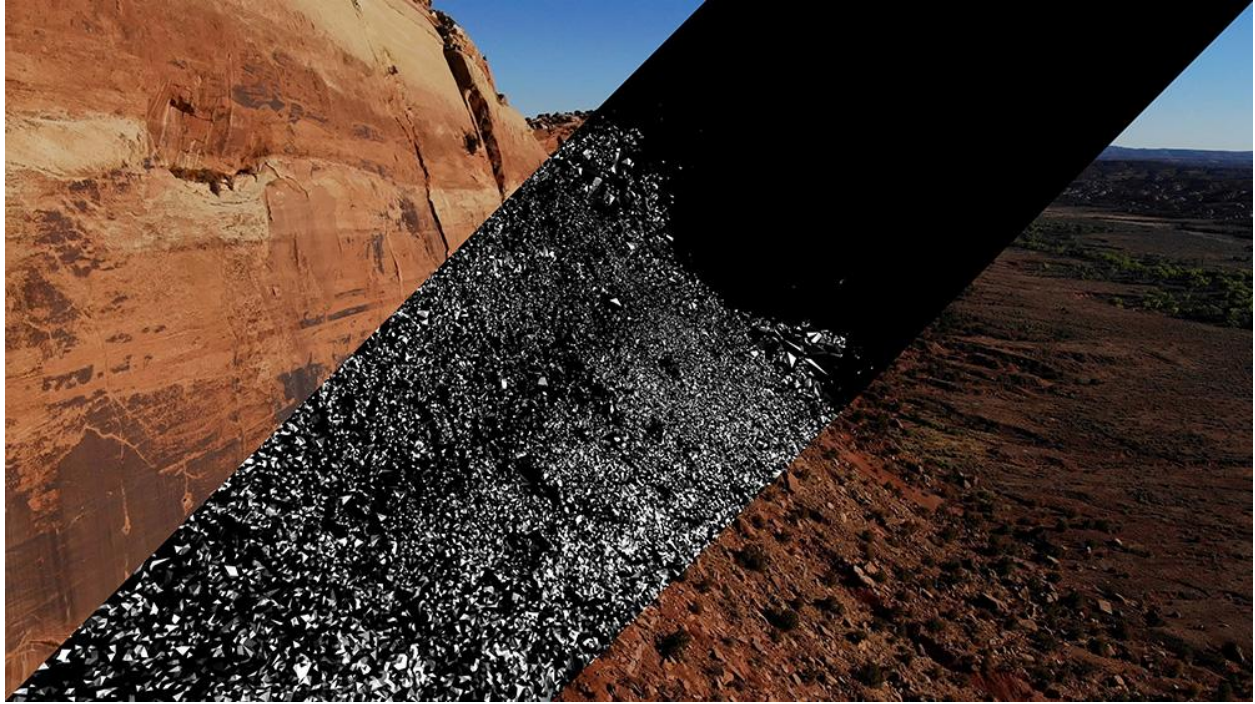
Rick Silva (b. Brazil, 1977). Still from *Western Fronts (Gold Butte)*, 2018. Video, running time: 18:30. Courtesy of the artist.

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Rick Silva (b. Brazil, 1977). Still from *Western Fronts (Grand Staircase-Escalante)*, 2018. Video, running time: 18:30. Courtesy of the artist.

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Rick Silva (b. Brazil, 1977). Still from *Western Fronts (Bears Ears)*, 2018. Video, running time: 18:30. Courtesy of the artist.

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Interview opportunity

Interviews can be arranged with the artist Rick Silva by calling [503-370-6867](tel:503-370-6867)
