



ELI AND EDYTHE **BROAD ART MUSEUM** MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

**March 12, 2015**

***Trevor Paglen: The Genres* (March 25 – September 13) explores dialogue between works by social scientist, artist, and writer Trevor Paglen and landscapes from Broad MSU's permanent historic collection**

**Exhibition continues Broad MSU's series *The Genres: Portraiture Still Life, and Landscape***

**East Lansing, MI** – The provocative and genre-defying work of contemporary artist Trevor Paglen will be explored in a new and unique context by The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (Broad MSU) in the exhibition *Trevor Paglen: The Genres* on view March 25, 2015 through September 13, 2015. Continuing the Museum's series *The Genres: Portraiture, Still Life, and Landscape*, the exhibition will feature 11 works by Paglen adjacent to an exhibition of landscapes from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries by artists such as Charles François Daubigny, Jean Baptiste Camille Corot, John Pfahl, and Andy Warhol, among others. The exhibition will examine both Paglen's longstanding interest in technology and vision and how technological developments have impacted the depiction of landscapes over time.

"Broad MSU has a unique mission to both engage groundbreaking contemporary artists from across the globe, and contextualize their work within our extensive historical collection," said Broad MSU Director Michael Rush. "This exhibition will provide a rare opportunity to view the work of Trevor Paglen as part of a larger trajectory of landscape, and perhaps raise new questions and insights about the genre itself."

Throughout his career, Trevor Paglen has been capturing the secret "black ops" activities of the U.S. military and intelligence agencies through publications, speeches, and a series of captivating photographs that blur the lines between science, contemporary art, and journalism. *Trevor Paglen: The Genres* will feature 11 of these photographic works that utilize the medium as a political tool—raising questions of perception and providing a critical lens on today's socio-political landscape. Works will include:

- *Prototype for a Nonfunctional Satellite*, a series of designs which examine what aerospace engineering would look like if its methods were decoupled from the corporate and military interests underlying the industry;
- *Optical Reconnaissance Satellite Near Scorpio*, part of the project *The Other Night Sky*, which tracks and photographs classified American satellites, space debris, and other obscure objects in Earth's orbit;
- *White Sands Missile Range, Alamogordo, New Mexico Distance ~ 35 miles*, part of Paglen's *Limit Telephotography* series, depicting a number of classified military bases and installations located in some of the remotest parts of the United States and;

- Blurred and abstracted images of U.S. drones, *Untitled (Reaper Drone)* and *Reaper Drone*.

These works will be positioned alongside a wide range of landscapes by historic, modern, and contemporary artists that use a variety of mediums and subjects. Works will include:

- Landscape paintings and etchings from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century from artists Charles François Daubigny, Albert Bierstadt, Alexander Helwig Wyant, Jan Van Goyen, Joseph Mallord William Turner, Jean Baptiste Camille Corot, and Jan Both and;
- 20<sup>th</sup> century landscape photography from artists Andy Warhol, Alvarez Bravo, Manuel, Frank Paulin, Patricia Layman Bazelon, Edward Burtynsky, E.O. Hoppé, Matt Guinn, Joel Meyerowitz, John Eric Lutz, Glenn Martin Rand, and Emil Terschak among others.

“Trevor Paglen’s practice provides a critical voice in today’s sociopolitical climate, contributing to current dialogue surrounding the relationship between the visual arts, technological advances, and the political realities of our world,” says Alison Gass, exhibition curator.

*Trevor Paglen* is the third and final installment of Broad MSU’s *The Genres* series, featuring contemporary artists who reinvented, reworked, or re-engaged one of the three featured genres. The previous exhibitions in the series included an exploration of portraiture by Brooklyn-based Artist Hope Gangloff (September 6 – December 1, 2013) and an exploration of still-life by Portland-based artist Jessica Jackson Hutchins (December 14, 2013 – March 16, 2014)—both using the Broad MSU historic collection to view each field through radical new perspectives.

### **Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University**

The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, a new Zaha Hadid-designed contemporary art museum at Michigan State University, is dedicated to exploring global contemporary culture and ideas through art. Opened on November 10, 2012, the dynamic 46,000-square-foot museum serves as both a teaching institution and a cultural hub for East Lansing and the region. In keeping with MSU’s commitment to applying knowledge to benefit society and further the global common good, the Broad MSU’s program of original and traveling exhibitions; initiatives with living artists; performances; and educational offerings for students, faculty, and the community make the museum a center for questioning and understanding the modern world. With a collection containing 7,500 objects from the Greek and Roman periods through the Renaissance and on to the Modern, the Broad MSU is uniquely able to contextualize the wide range of contemporary art practices within a firm historical context. The museum is named in honor of Eli and Edythe Broad, longtime supporters of the university who provided the lead gift of \$28 million. For more information, visit [www.broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://www.broadmuseum.msu.edu).

### **Michigan State University**

Michigan State University has been working to advance the common good in uncommon ways for more than 150 years. One of the top research universities in the world, MSU focuses its vast resources on creating solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges, while providing life-changing opportunities to a diverse and inclusive academic community through more than 200 programs of study in 17 degree-granting colleges.

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