Dani Dodge:

Hello. My name is Dani Dodge. How does your practice or project align with the themes outlined in the curatorial text? My work looks at landscape in a way that tries to show what we see in landscape and also what we don't see in landscape. It tries to reveal the unseen parts of the landscape that we could miss because of our presence.

What is your approach to land or landscape? My work involves both photography and video. My videos were shot with a motion sensor cameras at three different locations within the prime Desert Woodland Preserve in Lancaster, California during a residency that I had there. I was trying to explore landscape on a level of the beauty of the desert landscape, but also those moments within the landscape that truly give it life.

What does the West mean to you? What is the relationship between art and nature in your work? To me, the West is home. I've always lived in the West. I love the West. And what it means to me are the spaces in which we still have room to stretch our arms. The West provides so many different landscapes to explore. For me, the desert draws my attention almost more than anything else, because it is so vast, unpopulated and truly to me, embodies what the West is about. I had two residencies within deserts in the West, both at the Mojave National Preserve and at the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve, which this piece and this show is focused on. Those experiences have given me a tremendous amount of time within the desert and respect for the landscape and its beauty.

How do you see your work adding to conversations around the history of land and landscape and art? My work is looking at landscape on several different planes. And so I hope that when people look at the work that is layered, both with transparencies that have photos I've taken upon them and the videos, that they will see those connections in a different way. The connections between the animals that live within the desert and the landscape that typically we see in the desert. I'm hoping it will make people think about what is beyond that traditional idea of a landscape artwork to what is hidden within that landscape artwork.

What criticism do you hold for the genre of landscape and contemporary art? And how do you see your work aligning or differentiating itself from that? I think landscape has moved far, far beyond our traditional ideas of landscape. And I think that's something that the curators in this show truly embraced and tried to show. So in terms of criticism, I don't have any. I see artists today moving beyond that traditional landscape and finding ways to make it more meaningful in the times that we live. Thank you.