

## **LONG DESCRIPTION – 309 words**

### ***On the Grid: a look at settlement patterns in the high desert***

Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion, Trina Turk Gallery

March 11-May 25, 2017

To coincide with the inaugural Desert X exhibition, the museum presents an installation focused around *Lay of My Land*, a major sculptural work by the Joshua Tree-based artist Andrea Zittel.

Much like a topographic site model, *Lay of My Land* represents the 35 acres that compose A-Z West, Zittel's ongoing site-specific project in the Mojave Desert. Zittel's installation addresses the history of western expansion, which is also a history of land, landscape, and real estate. First divided by the Jeffersonian Grid in 1785, the land in the high desert was further divided by the 1938 Small-Tract "baby" Homestead Act that promised a five-acre parcel free to anyone who would erect a small structure. *Lay of My Land* not only includes Zittel's A-Z West project, it also features the original homesteader cabins still on the property. The artist has generously offered *Lay of My Land* as a promised gift to the museum's collection.

*On the Grid* is also comprised of one of Zittel's billboards and a *Wallsprawl* from her wallpaper series. "Each *Wallsprawl* consists of a repeating pattern of real photographs depicting fringe areas where wide-open desert meets large-scale urban development," says Zittel. "This is the West I grew up in—a place where my parents built a house in an isolated rural area that sixteen years later became a fully developed suburban matrix complete with shopping mall. Witnessing this rapid takeover of the natural made me view human progress as a sort of parasitic or viral expansion. Similar to actual growth, the *Wallspraws* have the capacity to repeat infinitely, folding a single image over into an infinite sprawl."

To complement Zittel's installation, historical materials, including maps and photographs, will be used to further tell the story of land settlement in the high desert.

Together with the artist, the museum will offer tours to A-Z West. Visit [psmuseum.org](http://psmuseum.org) for details.

**SHORT DESCRIPTION – 92 words**

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Coinciding with the inaugural Desert X exhibition, the museum presents an installation by Joshua Tree-based artist Andrea Zittel that investigates the unique development of the high desert. Featuring *Lay of My Land*—a large-scale sculptural representation of A-Z West, the artist's 35-acre testing grounds for living—as well as a *Wallsprawl* wallpaper and a billboard, *On the Grid* explores the history of western expansion. To complement Zittel's installation, historical materials, maps, and photographs enhance the story of high desert land settlement, along with optional tours to A-Z West. Visit [psmuseum.org](http://psmuseum.org) for details.

**SUPER SHORT DESCRIPTION – 52 words**

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An installation by Joshua Tree-based artist Andrea Zittel investigates the unique development of the high desert. Featuring a large-scale sculptural representation of A-Z West, the artist's 35-acre testing grounds for living, *On the Grid* explores the history of western expansion. Historical materials enhance the story, along with optional tours to A-Z West.