

## LAND AND BODY

It is lovely indeed, it is lovely indeed.

**I, I am the spirit within the earth.**

**The feet of the earth are my feet;**

**The legs of the earth are my legs.**

The bodily strength of the earth is my strength;

The thoughts of the earth are my thoughts;

The voice of the earth is my voice.

The feather of the earth is my feather;

All that belongs to the earth belongs to me;

All that surrounds the earth surrounds me.

I, I am the sacred words of the earth.

It is lovely indeed, it is lovely indeed.

Navajo, *Song of the Earth Spirit*

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Beneath the surface of each drawing are numerous drawings. If we peel back the layers of onion-like skins we arrive at a gestural mark, the bone. The dirt is the dry pastel, the bones are the marks under the skin of color, the wood of the pencil. The dirt is the land, the bones are the chisels. The dirt is the flesh of the bones in the end.

Rick Bartow, "Dirt and Bone" 1997

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Sometimes, when one is moving silently through such an utterly desolate landscape, an overwhelming hallucination can make one feel that oneself, as an individual human being, is slowly being unraveled. The surrounding space is so vast that it becomes increasingly difficult to keep a balanced grip on one's own being.

Haruki Murakami, *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* 1994

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Less and less can the land escape man; more and more man creates nature.

Peter E. Pool, *The Altered Landscape* 1999

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Once in his life a man ought to concentrate his mind upon the remembered earth, I believe. He ought to give himself up to a particular landscape in his experience, to look at it from as many angles as he can, to wonder about it, to dwell upon it.

N. Scott Momaday, *The Man Made of Words* 1997

## DESERT

One sits down on a desert sand dune, sees nothing, hears nothing. Yet **through the silence something throbs and gleams ...**

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince* 1943

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The desert from a distance is as tranquil as any other landscape, except for the light. As I get close the place becomes wild. Everything in sight is up-tempo and jumping with a thousand branches, a million thorns... altogether becoming a maze of order new and crazier in every turn, bathed in light that defies description .... It's a place, the desert, out of control in the norm of places.

Lee Friedlander, *The Desert Seen* 1996

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The desert is no longer a landscape, it is a pure form produced by the abstraction of all others.

Jean Baudrillard, *America* 1988

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Once again there was the desert, and that only.

Stephen King, *The Gunslinger* 1982

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I myself belong to the wind  
and so it is we will travel swiftly  
this whole world  
with dust and with windstorms.

Leslie Marmon Silko, *Storyteller* 1981

## SPIRITUALITY

The desert, above all subjects in nature, contains, for me, some elements of spiritual quality, which are not to be captured by the casual trip along paved highways where traffic passes every few minutes. The spirit of the subject is best felt miles away from any habitation or work of man, where the desert lives “silent, hot, and fierce.”

Stephen Willard, “Desert Photography” 1942

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These pictures are like little windows, opening to the view of a region not yet much visited consciously or by intention—**an inner realm, rather than outer landscape.**

Agnes Pelton 1929

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Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit, and as vital to our lives as water and good bread.

Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire* 1968

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The desert takes our dreams away from us, and they don't always return .... Those who don't return become a part of the clouds, a part of the animals that hide in the ravines and of the water that comes from the earth. They become part of everything... They become the Soul of the World.

Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist* 1988

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To encounter the sacred is to be alive at the deepest center of human existence. Sacred places are the truest definitions of the earth; they stand for the earth immediately and forever; they are its flags and shields. If you would know the earth for what it really is, learn it through its sacred places.

N. Scott Momaday, *The Man Made of Words* 1997

## WESTERN ICONS

**The cinema substitutes for our gaze a world more in harmony with our desires.**

Michel Mourlet 1959

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It's funny how the colors of the real world only seem really real when you see them on a screen.

Anthony Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange* 1962

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Photography is truth and cinema is truth twenty-four times per second.

Jean-Luc Godard, *Le Petit Soldat* 1963

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Landscape in a western is one of the most important characters the film has.

Ridley Scott 2013

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I foresee no possibility of venturing into themes showing a closer view of reality for a long time to come. The public itself will not have it. What it wants is a gun and a girl.

D.W. Griffith 1922