

# Contemporary Art, Architecture, and Landscape in Marfa

May 16 – 19, 2024



You are cordially invited to join the **Cleveland Museum of Art** on a trip led by **Curator of Contemporary Art Emily Liebert** in Marfa from May 16 through May 19. This trip will provide an insider view of Marfa through the lens of Emily Liebert who resided in far west Texas early in her career while working at the Chinati Foundation. We can expect a warm welcome as her friends open the doors to us for the ultimate Marfa experience.

Popularly identified with Minimalism, although he hated the term, **Donald Judd** was one of the best-known American artists of the 1960s. He also placed the humble city of Marfa, Texas, on the art world map. Judd moved to Marfa in 1971 from his home in New York City to explore his interest in installing his artwork exactly

the way he wanted. The Cleveland Art Museum invites you to experience this unique city, one of the top “wishlist” art destinations in the United States, and to depart with your impression of contemporary art changed forever.

On **THURSDAY**, our art programming begins before you even enter the town of Marfa as we break up the scenic drive from El Paso with a short stop to **Prada Marfa** in nearby Valentine, Texas. We will visit a permanent sculptural art installation by internationally recognized artist duo **Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset**. The installation, in the form of a freestanding storefront displaying actual Prada products—shoes and handbags, picked out and provided by Miuccia Prada from Prada’s fall/winter 2005 collection.



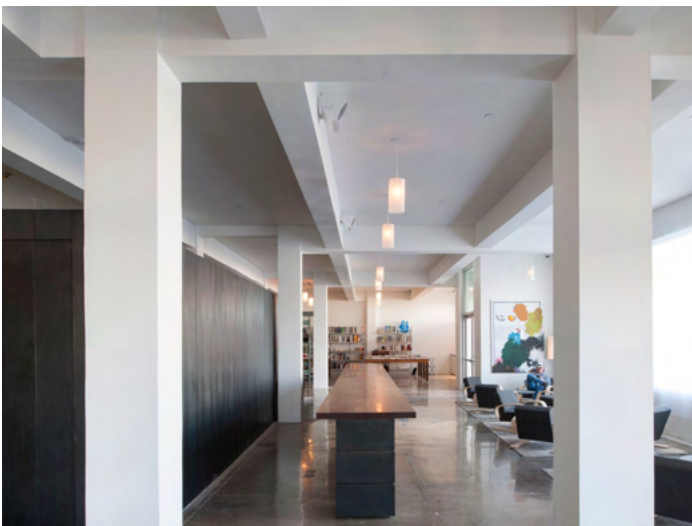
Bottom: Prada Marfa, image by Shelby Cohron via Unsplash

Patrons will check into their room at the **St. George Hotel**, a full-service property designed by the Houston architect Carlos Jiménez that combines wooden beams and columns from the original 1880 hotel with a modernist look echoing the serialism of Judd. The hotel displays its strong art collection, which features over 300 original works by contemporary artists such as Mark Flood, Jeff Elrod, and Christopher Wool. We will enjoy a welcome cocktail with a special guest to greet our group at a surprise local spot where we will have a catered dinner by **Bordo**, a gourmet delicatessen known for its Italian specialties.

For the early risers **FRIDAY**, we will offer a special sunrise tour of **Donald Judd's 15 concrete pieces** which are situated outside on the **Chinati Foundation** grounds. Designed to capture the daybreak light this will allow patrons to see the works as Judd designed and positioned them. We will spend the rest of the morning touring the collection of the **Chinati Foundation**, highlighted by 100 works in mill aluminum, with an introduction on the Foundation by **Director Caitlin Murray**. This former army base, situated on 340 acres of land, was converted by Judd into a permanent sanctuary for his own work as well as the large-scale, experiential work of artists he befriended and admired. Six former barracks on the grounds now house installations of glowing colored fluorescent lights by artist **Dan Flavin**. In another structure, artist **Roni Horn** installed two hand-lathed solid copper sculptures facing each other on the cracked concrete floor. We will finish our time at Chinati with a BBQ lunch on property.



The afternoon will include a private tour of the **John Chamberlain Building**, which is part of the Chinati Foundation. Afterward, we will shift our focus to some of today's great living artists as we meet with **Jeff Elrod**, a longtime Marfa resident. An innovative artist known for his "frictionless drawings," Jeff employs twentieth century abstraction in his process. Our second artist visit will highlight a Marfa newcomer and Chinati artist in residence, the exciting **Magalie Guérin**, whose practice includes both paintings and ceramics. A longtime Chicago resident and part-time teacher at SAIC (School of the Art Institute of Chicago), Magalie has strong momentum both academically and commercially. We will continue on for a late afternoon tour of the stunning new **Max Hetzler gallery** who will be exhibiting the work of Katrina Grosse. Director **Liz Serlenga** will host us for cocktails and a behind-the-scenes tour of her gallery. Our meal Friday evening, hosted at the home of one of Marfa's collectors, will be a fully catered dinner by **Marfa Table**. This private caterer works with local food sources and specializes in flavorful dishes of meat, fish, and vegetables grilled or smoked on fruit wood.



Bottom left: Hotel St. George in Marfa, image via carlosjimenezstudio.com; top right: Donald Judd, 15 untitled works in concrete, 1980–1984. Concrete, 15 units, each 2.5 x 2.5 x 5 meters. The Chinati Foundation

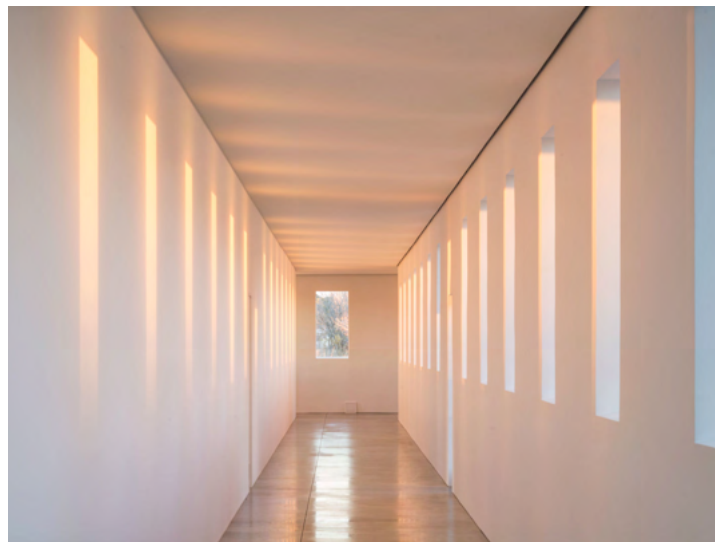
On **SATURDAY** we will visit the **Judd Foundation**, which owns a number of “personal” buildings Judd kept in Marfa outside of the Chinati Foundation. We will visit “The Block,” where Judd lived and kept a personal installation space. Enclosed with an adobe wall, The Block includes an interior courtyard landscape with cactus gardens and furniture designed by the artist. Two nearby hangars were part of the original land Judd purchased, and still contain his personal collection of art and artifacts as well as his library of more than 13,000 volumes.



We will also see his last art studio in Marfa, referred to as **The Studios**. This was a former Safeway grocery store located downtown that Judd bought in 1990. The space remains installed as it was when he died, with long work tables and shelving for prototypes, material samples, and artworks in a variety of states. We will remain in town for a casual lunch at **Aster Marfa**.



After lunch we will visit **Robert Arber of Arber & Son’s** for an in-depth discussion of his practice as a master printer for many artists, including Donald Judd. Our afternoon will continue with a visit to **Ballroom Marfa** where we will meet with **Executive Director and Curator Daisy Nam**. Established in 2003 by Virginia Lebermann and Fairfax Dorn, it is a contemporary art and performance space housed in a 1920s-era ballroom. While not completely art related, Marfa is well known for its cute boutique shopping which are blocks from Ballroom Marfa and the St. George.



We will leave two hours to explore the **Wrong Gallery**, **Skora**, **Garza Marfa**, and **Marfa Books** and return to the hotel for some downtime at your discretion. We will indulge in a quick stop before dinner back at Chinati to experience **Robert Irwin’s *untitled (dawn to dusk)***. The former base hospital was redesigned and rebuilt by artist Robert Irwin. At 10,000 square feet, it is the only permanent and freestanding work of art fully designed and conceived by Irwin, a horseshoe-shaped building with a sequence of windows that frame the Texan skyline like paintings by the Old Dutch masters. Irwin’s piece captures perfectly the setting sun. This sunset experience, accompanied by **a sampling of Casa Dragonos**, is a gratifying way to finish the day.

Top right: The Block at the Judd Foundation in Marfa, image via [juddfoundation.org](http://juddfoundation.org); middle right: Art Studio at the Judd Foundation in Marfa, [juddfoundation.org](http://juddfoundation.org); bottom right: Robert Irwin, *untitled (dawn to dusk)*, 2016. Photo by Alex Marks. Courtesy of the Chinati Foundation and Robert Irwin

We will have our final dinner at neighborhood favorite, **Cochineal**, a sleek modern Texan restaurant opened by James Harkrider and his wife, Executive Chef Alexandra Gates. The highly seasonal menu, sometimes pulled from the restaurant's own on-site garden, earned Chef Gates a 2020 James Beard nomination for Best Chef: Texas. Relax with a hibiscus and thyme punch cocktail as you reflect on your transformative weekend in Marfa.

The last day of our weekend, **SUNDAY**, begins and ends with a visit to a local artist's studio. Judd passed away in 1994, but the town has remained a source of inspiration for the artists that live and work there and has become a destination for artists looking for a new (albeit remote) base and source of inspiration. We will visit a local legend, **Camp Bosworth**. While formally trained in painting, Camp Bosworth has embraced woodworking to tell a "narrative through objects." Pending artists availability, we will also receive a studio tour of **Christopher Wool** or **Charline Von Heyl**'s studios. Christopher and Charline are married and spend many months a year in Marfa creating their unique work. Our luxury coach will leave Marfa at 10 a.m. to return passengers to El Paso to catch the 3 p.m. flight back to Cleveland.

The Marfa experience will cost \$5,387 per person in a double room sharing, and \$6,057 for a single traveler. This includes three nights at the St. George hotel, three dinners, two lunches, and transportation from and to El Paso and while in Marfa. Your booking is requested by December 1, 2023. The trip is limited to 24 guests and a minimum of 15 guests is required to operate this trip. All programming may change and is subject to availability of hosts and venues.

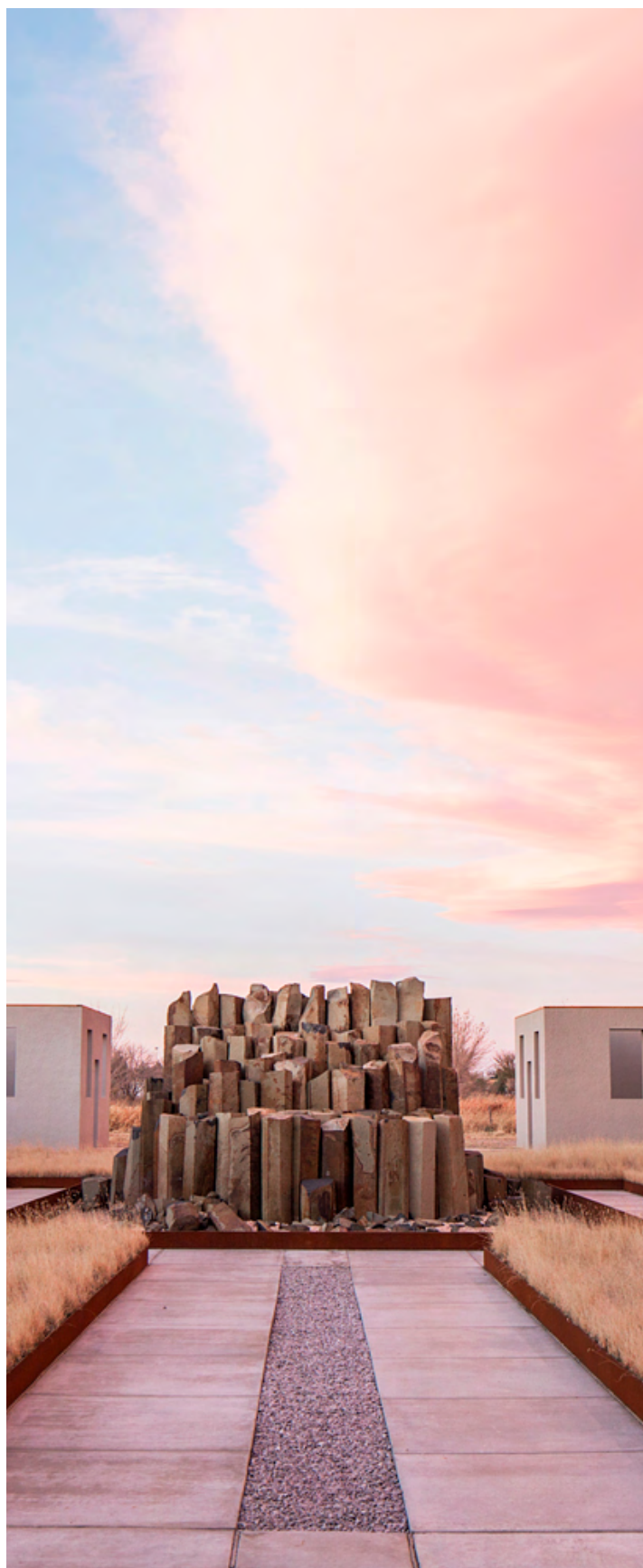
*No refund will be provided for cancellations within sixty days of the trip's start date. If the museum has another patron to fill a spot, a substitution will be allowed. After the trip has commenced, no refunds are available, even if the client does not partake in all of the trip's activities or leaves the trip early. We highly recommend the trip insurance offered when booking. Please reach out to Latasha Thomas if you have questions on the insurance.*

*Recommended Flights:*

*American Airlines (CLE to ELP with stop in DFW): 7:44 AM departure, 11:04 arrival*

*United Airlines (CLE to ELP with stop in ORD): 7:30 AM departure, 11:33 arrival*

*Your Cleveland Museum of Art contact is Melanie Uchimura ([muchimura@clevelandart.org](mailto:muchimura@clevelandart.org) or 216-707-2592). Your Artful Jaunts contact is Latasha Thomas ([latasha@artfuljaunts.com](mailto:latasha@artfuljaunts.com) or 781-658-2270). Please reach out to either if you have any questions.*



Right: Robert Irwin, *untitled (dawn to dusk)* courtyard, 2016. Photo by Alex Marks via chinati.org