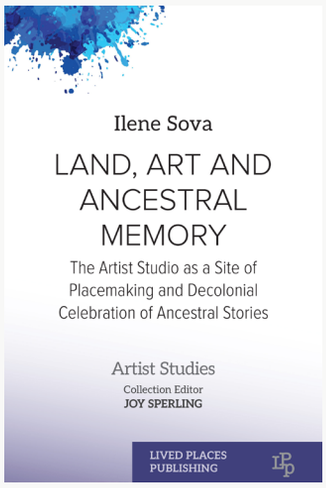

Land, Art and Ancestral Memory: The Artist Studio as a Site of Placemaking and Decolonial Celebration of Ancestral Stories

AUTHOR Ilene Sova
COLLECTION EDITED BY Joy Sperling

COLLECTION
Artists Studies

EDITION
1st edition

MARKET
College/higher education and Professional and Scholarly

This course reading...

- Features intimate interviews with contemporary artists across the Americas who are actively challenging colonial approaches to creative practice.
- Explores the intersections of art, land, identity, family, memory, and ancestral heritage through diverse interdisciplinary practices.
- Addresses urgent contemporary issues including racism, cultural loss, decolonization, climate change, and the social impacts of colonization.
- Reveals the research, materials, and creative processes behind artists' practices, offering valuable insights for students and educators.
- Ideal for studio art and contemporary art history courses, particularly at institutions seeking to decolonize and diversify their curricula.

What happens when the artist's studio becomes a place to reclaim ancestral memory, reconnect with land, and challenge the legacies of colonization?

Land, Art and Ancestral Memory: The Artist Studio as a Site of Placemaking and Decolonial Celebration of Ancestral Stories by **Ilene Sova** brings together intimate interviews with artists across the Americas, from Canada to Brazil, whose practices are reshaping the relationship between art, identity, land, and cultural memory.

Through the voices of artists committed to decolonizing creative practice, the book explores how the studio can become a site of research, resistance, and social connection. The featured practitioners draw on family histories, ancestral knowledge, land, memory, and diverse artistic materials to address urgent issues including racism, cultural loss, identity, climate change, and the social and economic impacts of colonization.

By revealing the research, experimentation, and creative processes behind these interdisciplinary practices, **Sova** offers students and educators a deeper understanding of how contemporary artists engage with social and political change. The book also supports classroom learning through learning outcomes, discussion questions, writing and studio prompts designed to encourage critical reflection and personal engagement.

Ideal for studio art and contemporary art history courses, particularly in institutions seeking to decolonize and diversify their curricula. The book also appeals to students, educators, and readers interested in contemporary art, Indigenous and diasporic identities, ancestral memory, and social justice.

Ilene Sova is an artist, arts advocate, and Associate Professor at OCAD University whose interdisciplinary practice focuses on decolonization, intersectional feminism, anti-oppression, and diversity in the arts.

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