

## Destination Art by Amy Dempsey

### Selected reviews in English

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If there's anything more likely to make you want to jack it all in and travel the world, I haven't found it yet.  
**Artists & Illustrators, March 2011 (UK)**

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Public artworks have the power to capture the imagination in a way gallery and museum-based pieces can't achieve. Whether you've made a journey to see an artist's project in a remote spot or come across a commissioned work in the bustle of a major city, 'destination art' makes you engage with it in an invigorating and often revelatory way. Now updated and available in paperback, *Destination Art* is an excellent guide to this phenomenon, taking in 20th and 21st-century examples from across the world.

**Metro, 24 February 2011 (UK)**

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Your summer vacation plans have just changed, said Rachel Campbell-Johnson in the *London Times*. Every entry in this compendium of site-specific art is a tempting invitation to hop on a plane or reserve an off-road SUV so you can savor the visions achieved by artists working far outside the walls of our galleries and museums. Whether you are partial to the "maximalism of Mount Rushmore or the minimalism of sculptor Donald Judd," said Ossian Ward in *Royal Academy* magazine, there's something among the 100-plus destinations here to suit your taste. Amy Dempsey has "a nose for a good story" that adds fresh interest even to such old standbys as Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty*. If an enterprising travel packager ever chooses to update the 18th-century Grand Tour to suit our postmillennial, peripatetic lifestyles, *Destination Art* could be the guidebook.

**www.theweekmagazine.com. December 2006**

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Amy Dempsey provides a real art-niks delight ... It functions simultaneously as a vibrant picture book, a travel guide and catalogue of important public art sites around the world. It's an impressive undertaking and so very well executed.

**State of Art. January/February 2007 (UK)**

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### From the salt flats to the stars

CHRISTMAS SEEMS TO BE the time for making summer holiday plans. So if an island paradise feels more like tourist hell, why not consider a cultural pilgrimage instead? Amy Dempsey's *Destination Art* (Thames & Hudson, £24.95/offer £22.45) is a temptingly illustrated compendium to a couple of hundred key sites where modern and contemporary art installations relate to the evocative dramas of their landscapes. Leading you from the Great Salt Lakes of America (for Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty*) to the dry salt beds of Australia (for Antony Gormley's steel army), from an electrifying field of lightning in the New Mexico desert to a garish Tuscan wonderland, this is a volume to tempt you away from the hearth.

**Rachel Campbell-Johnston. The Times. November 18, 2006 (UK)**

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Lucidly written, beautifully illustrated, and accompanied by practical details, Amy Dempsey's book can be studied at home by readers who dream wistfully of traveling to one or more of these *Destination Art* sites, or by travelers, who, volume in hand, have just arrived triumphantly to experience them firsthand.

**Moira Roth, author of *Traveling Companions/Fractured Worlds* (USA)**

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## New Horizons

A guidebook for the aesthetically minded traveller, *Destination Art* catalogues some 200 site-specific works from around the world, from sculpture parks and quirky installations to major environmental compositions, such as those by James Turrell and Robert Smithson, and the Strata Project in Finland, where 11,000 trees have been planted in a spiral pattern. Whether you're after a monument buried in the desert or sculptural inventions in the grounds of a major museum (Tadao Ando's Chichu Art Museum in Naoshima springs to mind), this book will help you find it.

**Jonathan Bell. Wallpaper Magazine. November 2006 (UK)**

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## On architecture, art theft and one weighty Warhol

*Destination Art* by Amy Dempsey (University of California Press, \$39.95). In earlier centuries, well-to-do people got their art education taking the "grand tour" of Europe to visit the great museums and cathedrals. Now that air travel has opened that world to the masses, more people are getting away from the big museums to encounter artworks one-on-one. Besides, with the advent of the earth art movement in the 1970s, there's a lot more out there to be seen. This book is essentially an art travel guide to pilgrimage sites as obvious as Mount Rushmore in South Dakota and as obscure as the Brancusi Ensemble in Târgu-Jiu, Romania. It's well-illustrated with color photographs, so makes a wonderful resource for armchair travelers, too.

**Sheila Farr. The Seattle Times. Monday, December 11, 2006 (USA)**

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## Classic Ferraris and Private Islands : Holiday Lifestyle Books

*Destination Art* by Amy Dempsey (University of California Press, \$39.95). This new travel guide for the international art tourist surveys 200 modern and contemporary art destinations, offering a critique of the most important large-scale, public works of this and the last century, and covering a wide variety of environmental pieces, sculpture parks, architecture and art towns.

**Edward Nawotka. www.bloomberg.com. December 14, 2007**

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The first impression of this remarkable book is that it might help travellers, for it points the way to fascinating pieces of art ...But Amy Dempsey also weaves delightful tales of the 'environmental' artists behind these creations, their quirky visions for their own back yards that sometimes upset the neighbours, as do such outsized plans as Claude Simard's, to turn the village of Larouche, Que., into a gallery of buildings from around the world that were saved from wrecking balls.

**The Globe and Mail. Saturday, December 9, 2006 (Canada)**

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## The world in a stocking : Looking for the perfect gift for an armchair traveller? Michael Kerr offers a few suggestions.

*Destination Art* by Amy Dempsey (Thames & Hudson, £24.95)

The sculptor Claes Oldenburg is not a great one for galleries: "I am for art that is political-erotic-mystical, that does something other than sit on its ass in a museum." If you share that sentiment, you will enjoy this guide to the 200 most important modern and contemporary art sites around the world – works you have to travel to and see in their own space. They range from a representation of *The Last Supper* in a ghost town in Nevada to the *Memorial to Heroic Sacrifice* – better known as Postman's Park – in London. Included are travel details, opening hours and suggestions for further reading.

**Michael Kerr. www.Telegraph.co.uk. 9 December 2006 (UK)**

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For travelers seeking art on a grand scale, the 200 modern and contemporary site-specific works in this survey more than "merit the detour," as the Michelin guide would say. Located around the world, but with special emphasis on the United States and Europe, these sites encompass sculpture parks, visionary environments, architectural follies, monumental land and environmental works, and installations. The author, who has worked for the Tate Modern Museum in London, provides the history and descriptions of 50 sites.

Essential visitor information—hours, contact details, etc.—is given for the 150 others.

**American Craft Magazine. February/March 2007 (USA)**

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### **Escaping home for the holidays**

It's late December, and thoughts turn to two things: trying to figure out what last-minute gifts to get and daydreaming about being far, far away from shopping, traffic and holiday obligations. For inspiration on both counts, check out these fine, photo-filled books for the savvy and curious traveler...

Sometimes the trip is about the journey, and sometimes it's about the destination. One may choose to see the highest mountain, the tallest waterfall, the most richly endowed art museum. Amy Dempsey's *Destination Art* (UC Press; 272 pages; \$39.95) is a guide to what she sees as the world's 200 most significant modern and contemporary art sites. Its pages are filled with formal and environmental installations, including Henry Moore sculptures in England, Henri Matisse's Chapelle du Rosaire, in Provence, the Ant Farm's *Cadillac Ranch* in Amarillo, Texas, and Simon Rodia's *Watts Towers* in Los Angeles. In an era of grand outdoor installations, this book is for art lovers who want to venture beyond the confines of the museum, and includes practical visitor information (directions, hours, admission fees). It's also an eye-opening experience for the armchair adventurer and amateur art critic.

**Regan McMahon. San Francisco Chronicle. Thursday, December 21, 2006 (USA)**

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### **Great escapes : Ossian Ward admires a new book that updates the Grand Tour for a twenty-first century audience.**

While some might flinch at its populist, catch-all title, *Destination Art* does perfectly summarise the philosophy and content of this book, focusing as it does on works of art or, occasionally, architecture that cannot be found without some searching or, at the very least, a plane journey. Art tourism is nothing new, yet no one has attempted to update the eighteenth-century Grand Tour to suit our post-millennial, peripatetic lifestyles. *Destination Art* goes some way to providing a global guide to sculpture parks, artistic follies and seminal works of Outsider, Earth, Land and Environmental art, although in its glossy, large format I warrant that this book will inspire more travels than it accompanies.

For the most part, the hard-to-find monuments that were the culminations of the artist's life's work make for the most rewarding reading, especially those secreted among forests, lakes and rolling hills such as *Le Palais Idéal* in Hauterives, France, which is a conglomeration of grottoes and temples built of stones, fossils and shells by a local postman between 1879 and 1912.

However, the author's emphasis on historical depth and her nose for a good story reinvigorates familiar sites, such as Robert Smithson's mythic *Spiral Jetty* in Utah and Brancusi's Ensemble in Romania. These also benefit from updates on their current state, as well as locations and opening times.

While all tastes and curiosities are catered for – from Donald Judd's minimalism to the maximalism of Mount Rushmore and from the bucolic garden of *Little Sparta* by Ian Hamilton Finlay to the urban playground of Simon Rodia's *Watts Towers* – more contemporary interpretations of art destinations are absent, such as Rirkrit Tiravanija's progressive and utopian artist-made village, *The Land*, near Chiang Mai, Thailand.

**Ossian Ward. RA Magazine. (Royal Academy of Arts) Autumn 2006 (UK)**

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A practical and informative guide to over 200 art sites around the world, *Destination Art* is a lavishly illustrated tour of places that if you cannot see then you ought to be aware of. A great gift for that armchair traveler. \*\*\*\*\*

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**Raymond J. Steiner. Art Times. December 2006 (USA)**

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A lovingly written, and beautifully executed, sampler of art that demands to be seen on its own terms... What this book does so well is to almost overcome the limitations of description and reproduction and allow you to engage with some truly beautiful and original art, without necessarily visiting it, and yet also inspires you to go and see it first-hand... it is an absolute joy.

**www.dicconspain.org. November 13, 2006 (UK)**

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Amy Dempsey's guide to man-made sculptures and structures around the world acts as an inspiration to seek out fascinating works and objects that you might not before known had even existed, but could well help to make your trip even more fulfilling.

**Jon Field, Real Travel. October/November 2006 (UK)**

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Also enjoying *Destination Art* by Amy Dempsey; a guide to contemporary, site-specific art from all over the world. My list of places to visit grows every time I turn the page.

**'What they're reading: Julia Habrecht, Development officer for Major Gifts, the Toledo Museum of Art', Toledo Blade. December 24, 2006 (USA)**

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**Bogside Artists' murals a world 'must-see' spot**

The Bogside Artists' murals have been selected by a top critic alongside the work of Gaudi and Matisse as one of the world's must-see destinations. .. One Derry artist, Tom Kelly, said the inclusion of their work in the book was indicative of the snowballing interest in the 11 murals in the Bogside. .."The new book features 200 art destinations which anybody involved in art or culture should visit, and we are there, which is great." ...

Ms Dempsey's illustrated book is the first critical guide to the most important modern and contemporary art sites around the world. The book is designed for the international art tourist, with practical information for the traveller, but the book also provides an accessible chronological survey of the world's most important large-scale and public works of the 20th and 21st century.

**Brendan McDaid. Belfast Telegraph. Thursday, February 15, 2007 (Northern Ireland)**

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**Distilling a year's worth of art books**

Amy Dempsey's book *Destination Art* (University of California Press, US\$39.95), also throws some light on Barcelona. This is a book that examines, partly for the benefit of art-tourists, dozens of sites round the world where artists, operating in such genres as installation, earth-art and geo-art, have left huge permanent works. Sure enough, one of these is in Barcelona where between 1900 and 1914 the architect Antoni Gaudi, alluded to above, built a 15-hectare park. It crystallised many of the ideas he contributed to the Spanish movement called Moderisme, which had aesthetic links to both the Arts and Crafts movement and Art Nouveau. (Incidentally, the only Canadian site featured in *Destination Art* is Larouche, an entire reconstructed village in Québec, the work of Claude Simard.)

**George Fetherling. Seven Oaks. December 11, 2006 (Canada)**

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