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Chinati Weekend 2020
From Sotol To Bagpipes: Accolades For An Online Program

Marfa, Texas — Chinati Foundation hosted this year’s Chinati Weekend and Made in Marfa events entirely online. Over 4,800 people around the globe tuned into the most accessible Chinati Weekend to date.

Over the course of three days—October 9 to October 11—the museum’s website served as a portal to new contents and live programs for visitors to enjoy safely from home.

Friday began with curator Ingrid Schaffner “Introducing Chinati Weekend” in the sotol garden designed by Chinati’s founder, the artist Donald Judd. Made in Marfa online hosted 73 participating makers, purveyors, canteens, and community organizations, many of whom created special content for the weekend. On Saturday, Chinati Weekend commenced with open house tours and archival treasures. The afternoon was devoted to scholarly talks—one hosted by Judd Foundation—and rolled into an evening of history, lore, a Truckload of Marfa Music, and a special broadcast on Marfa Public Radio. On Sunday, focus shifted to Chinati today, with a curatorial conversation and new work by 2020 Artists in Residence. Director Jenny Moore brought the weekend’s schedule to a close with a windswept outdoor toast, followed by a lone bagpiper who walked the line of Judd’s works in concrete and played a lingering tune.

As I have not been able to travel to Marfa in October, having the digital experience was a treat!
Takako Tanabe, Ulterior Gallery, New York

I appreciate all the effort and thought to provide us with an authentic experience, although virtual. I think we probably liked David and Primo in the back of the pickup the best...
And who wouldn’t like the two young people’s visit to the Flavin buildings?
Jim Hanson, Chinati supporter, Fennville, Michigan

My favorite part was seeing the two artists in residence, magnificent Chinati, early building and history films, and the bagpipes with a view of Judd’s works in concrete.
Helen Winkler, co-founder Dia Art Foundation

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Chinati Weekend 2020 remains largely accessible on the museum’s website, along with Celebrate Chinati Weekend At Home recipes and music, Making Together creative prompts from Chinati’s education department, and Made in Marfa.

About Chinati Weekend
The Chinati Weekend tradition was inaugurated in 1987 by the museum’s founder, artist Donald Judd, as a means to bring together Chinati’s local, national, and international communities. Chinati Weekend 2020 created an online destination to protect public health during the pandemic, while preserving the spirit of the museum’s biggest public program. This year marked the 20th anniversary of the public inauguration of Dan Flavin’s untitled (Marfa project), which is undergoing a major refurbishment and will be the subject of a series of upcoming public programs in Chinati’s newly activated online space.

About the Chinati Foundation
The Chinati Foundation/La Fundación Chinati is a contemporary art museum based upon the ideas of its founder, Donald Judd. The specific intention of Chinati is to preserve and present to the public permanent large-scale installations by a select group of artists. The emphasis is on works in which art and the surrounding land are inextricably linked.
The Chinati Foundation is located on 340 acres of land on the site of former Fort D.A. Russell in Marfa, Texas. In 1978, with financial support from the Dia Art Foundation, Judd began repairs and renovations to the fort’s historic buildings, followed by the fabrication and installation of artwork. Chinati opened to the public in 1987 as an independent, nonprofit museum. Today, Chinati is supported through the generosity of our donors and members.

The Collection
Judd’s original concept for the museum centered on his own artwork and work by Dan Flavin and John Chamberlain. Chinati’s permanent collection includes Judd’s 15 outdoor works in concrete and 100 works in mill aluminum in two converted artillery sheds; Dan Flavin’s installation of colored fluorescent light in six former barracks buildings; and John Chamberlain’s 23 sculptures in a renovated wool warehouse in downtown Marfa. Judd later expanded the collection to include works by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, Richard Long, Roni Horn, David Rabinowitch, Ilya Kabakov, and Ingólfur Arnarsson. Following Judd’s death in 1994, the museum completed additional projects: an installation of poems by Carl Andre (1995); a gallery of paintings by John Wesley (2004); and Robert Irwin’s untitled (dawn to dusk) (2016).

Public tours and viewing of the collection, the conservation of the artworks, education programs, artists’ residencies, special exhibitions, lectures, performances, and publications are all vital facets of Chinati’s mission.

The museum is currently closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Self-guided Walking Tours are offered on a limited basis when public safety allows; current updates are available on the museum website. For more information, please email press@chinati.org, or call (432) 729-4362.

To learn more about the Chinati Foundation and its upcoming programs, and to download issues of the Chinati Foundation Newsletter, visit Chinati’s website at chinati.org.