

Graham Foundation

For Immediate Release

Graham Foundation Announces 2020 Grants to Individuals and Next Open Call for New Ideas

Chicago, July 29, 2020—The Graham Foundation is honored to announce the award of \$320,800 for 52 new grants in support of critical projects that tackle contemporary issues, broaden historical perspectives, and explore the future of architecture and the designed environment through research, exhibitions, publications, films, digital initiatives, and other inventive formats. Selected from an open call for ideas that resulted in over 600 submissions last fall, the 2020 grantee cohort includes individuals working worldwide in cities such as Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Bogotá, Columbia; Cape Town, South Africa; Lahore, Pakistan; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; and US cities such as Atlanta, Georgia; Newport News, Virginia; and Chicago, Illinois, where the Graham Foundation is based.

“Now more than ever, support for challenging ideas is essential to realize change,” noted Graham director Sarah Herda. “The Graham Foundation invests in people working to reimagine and push the boundaries of architecture. From addressing issues such as systemic racism and injustice; to the impacts of colonialism, geopolitics, and climate change; and raising awareness of under recognized figures and bodies of work, the 2020 grantees demonstrate new possibilities for the field.”

As the Graham approaches 65 years of grantmaking and public programming, the Foundation seeks to continue to support diverse and challenging ideas about architecture by individuals working around the world. The international open call for applications is now live on the Graham Foundation’s website. Individuals must submit an inquiry form by September 15, 2020 to be considered for a 2021 grant.

Below is the complete list of new 2020 grantees and descriptions of the awarded projects begin on page three. Click on any grantee name below to visit their online project page. To learn more go to grahamfoundation.org.

LIST OF 2020 INDIVIDUAL GRANTEES (52 awards)

EXHIBITIONS (6)

Cathy Hsiao
Prem Krishnamurthy
Figure: James Leng and Jennifer Ly
Zoe Leonard
Future Firm: Ann Lui and
Craig Reschke
Alex Martínez Suárez

FILM, VIDEO, AND NEW MEDIA (8)

Miriam Hillawi Abraham
Rossella Biscotti
Jay Cephas
Killian Doherty and
Edward Lawrenson
Maxwell Mutanda
Jess Myers
Fred Schmidt-Arenales
Clarissa Tossin

PUBLICATIONS (20)

Stan Allen
Julie Ault
Shiben Banerji
Besler & Sons: Erin Besler and
Ian Besler
Greg Castillo and Lee Stickells
Lawrence Chua
Joseph L. Clarke
Stephanie Cristello
Neven Fuchs, Stefano Graziani, and
Aleksandra Ognjanov
Aglaya K. Glebova
Nicolas GrosPierre

Forensic Oceanography: Charles
Heller and Lorenzo Pezzani
Nana Last
Roberta Marcaccio
Sarah M. Miller
Catherine Seavitt Nordenson
Territorial Agency: John Palmesino
and Ann-Sofi Rönnskog
Spyros Papapetros and Gerd Zillner
Christina Schwenkel
Delia Duong Ba Wendel

RESEARCH PROJECTS (18)

Pak Khawateen Painting Club:
Malika Abbas, Saulat Ajmal,
Amna Hashmi, Saba Khan,
Natasha Malik, Zohreen
Murtaza, and Emaan Shaikh
Anthony Acciavatti
Christina E. Crawford
Ghazal Jafari
Andrés Jaque and Bart-Jan Polman
Gelare Khoshgozaran
Jorge L. Lizardi Pollock
Kera Lovell
Jessica Lynne
Geoff Manaugh
Kareem Rabie
Juana Salcedo
Beatriz A. Santos
Ishita Shah
Kirsten Swenson
Jina Valentine
Oliver Wainwright
Ed Wall

DESCRIPTIONS OF AWARDED PROJECTS—2020 GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS

EXHIBITIONS (6 awards)

Cathy Hsiao

Chicago, IL

Mother's House 孃家 | Architecture for Water Cannon Blue 水砲藍

Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL

Translating displays of power into forms of care as sculpture, sound, and images—all references to the artist's maternal history and narratives of protest in China—this exhibition highlights the artist's unique casting method that combines building materials with natural dyes and serves as another act of reframing a shared community of knowledge.

Prem Krishnamurthy

New York, NY

Future of Futures (Scene 1)

Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, United Kingdom

This long-term project reimagines exhibition making as a collaborative, distributed game, in which teams of artists, designers, architects, and fiction writers draft speculative exhibitions set in radically disparate futures.

Figure: James Leng and Jennifer Ly

San Francisco, CA

Veil Craft

Craft Contemporary and Materials & Applications, Los Angeles, CA

An architectural installation made of construction scaffolding textiles that explores the untapped aesthetic potentials of this utilitarian material and interrogates its cultural associations in Los Angeles, a city that is constantly building and rebuilding itself.

Zoe Leonard

New York, NY

Al Rio/To the River

Mudam, The Contemporary Art Museum of Luxembourg, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg

This project is an exhibition of photographs taken along the Rio Grande/Río Bravo in the 1,200-mile stretch where the river is used to demarcate the international boundary between Mexico and the US.

Future Firm: Ann Lui and Craig Reschke

Chicago, IL

The Night Gallery: Wonderland, Exhibition Series 2020

A nocturnal storefront exhibition space which features film and video works by architects, designers, and artists; this year's series, *Wonderland*, features works that explore the built environment through the wondrous, weird, and divine across three locations in Chicago's South and West sides.

Alex Martínez Suárez

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Jaragua no cae

Centro Cultural Eduardo León Jimenes, Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic

A research-based exhibition that critically addresses the life and death of the Caribbean modernist icon Hotel Jaragua, demolished in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in 1985.

FILM, VIDEO, AND NEW MEDIA PROJECTS (8 awards)

Miriam Hillawi Abraham

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Abyssinian Cyber Vernaculus

Through a set of narrative-driven virtual reality experiences—accompanied by physical objects and comic book style publications—this project is designed to contest the active exclusion of Black and Brown formalisms and artifacts from the architectural canon to contradict the apocryphal stories of Africa.

Rossella Biscotti

Rotterdam, the Netherlands

The City

A film that weaves together historic and contemporary narratives of living and organization in the Turkish Neolithic archaeological site Çatalhöyük, regarded as one of the first urban centers of the world.

Jay Cephas

Dorchester, MA

Black Architects Archive

A web-based, interactive repository of architectural practice that maps the genealogy of Black architects from the nineteenth century to the present.

Killian Doherty and Edward Lawrenson

Edinburgh and London, United Kingdom

Salone Drift

Chronicling the ruinous consequences of illegal sand and rock mining in Freetown, Sierra Leone, this feature-length documentary unearths connections to the divided legacy of the city's colonial past.

Maxwell Mutanda

Cape Town, South Africa

(In)Voluntary Mutations

Designed as a multinational series, these public programs investigate technology's impact on the interstitial spatial practices of low wage, itinerant, or digital platform workers in the Global South, questioning the role of twenty-first century art and design.

Jess Myers

New York, NY

Here There Be Dragons, Season Three: Stockholm

A narrative documentary podcast that explores the impact of public policy and cultural attitudes on city residents' feelings of safety and insecurity in urban space.

Fred Schmidt-Arenales

Philadelphia, PA

Committee of Six

This short film reenacts a series of meetings held at the University of Chicago wherein administrators created the exclusionary practices known as urban renewal.

Clarissa Tossin

Los Angeles, CA

Mojo'q che b'ixan ri ixkanulab' / Antes de que los Volcanes Canten / Before the Volcanoes Sing

This performance uses video, installation, sculpture, and collaborative research to engage with suppressed counter-narratives implicit in the built environment in an attempt to decolonize Mayan Revival architecture and reclaim its connection to lineages beyond the modernist tradition.

PUBLICATIONS (20 awards)

Stan Allen

Elizaville, NY

Situated Objects

(Park Books)

A book of drawings and photographs that speaks to architecture's relationship to landscape and place through a series of buildings and projects realized by Stan Allen since 2012.

Julie Ault

New York, NY

Hidden in Plain Sight: Selected Writings of Karin Higa

(Dancing Foxes Press)

This book unites writings by the late art historian and curator Karin Higa (1966–2013), focused on communal artistic production that took root in the Japanese Internment camps, and Asian American artists in the aftermath of discriminatory immigration policies and war hysteria—recuperating significant artists and practices from bigoted historical neglect.

Shiben Banerji

Chicago, IL

Lineages of the Global City: Occult Modernism and the Spiritualization of Democracy
(University of Texas Press)

As cities undermine democratic accountability and race to lower environmental and labor standards, *Lineages of the Global City* argues that democratic judgment, ecological conservation, and cross-cultural solidarity are concerns central to the practice of modernist urban design.

Besler & Sons: Erin Besler and Ian Besler

Hopewell, NJ

Best Practices

(AR+D Applied Research and Design Publishing)

A catalog and photo essay on the city of Los Angeles and its complicated relationship with building materials, signage systems, communication equipment, plant life, and people.

Greg Castillo and Lee Stickells

Berkeley, CA and Sydney, Australia

Design Radicals: Spaces of Bay Area Counterculture

(University of Minnesota Press)

This collection of essays explores the protean spatial artifacts that announced Northern California's emergence as an incubator of radical social, cultural, and technological countercultures, as investigated by scholars from multiple disciplines.

Lawrence Chua

Syracuse, NY

Bangkok Utopia: Modern Architecture and Buddhist Felicities, 1910–1973

(University of Hawai'i Press)

By outlining an alternative genealogy of both utopia and modernism, this book offers a different perspective for a part of the world that has often been overlooked by researchers of both.

Joseph L. Clarke

Toronto, Canada

Echo's Chambers: Architecture and the Idea of Acoustic Space

(University of Pittsburgh Press)

Exploring how architects' experimental research on the propagation of sound from the seventeenth through the mid-twentieth centuries, this book argues that experimentation laid the groundwork for contemporary ideas about sound and space.

Stephanie Cristello

Chicago, IL

Barbara Kasten: Architecture & Film (2015–2020)

(Skira)

Abstraction, light, and architectural form have informed the work of artist Barbara Kasten (b. 1936) since the 1970s and this book contextualizes her contemporary practice within her broad oeuvre.

Neven Fuchs, Stefano Graziani, and Aleksandra Ognjanov

Oslo, Norway and Trieste, Italy

Sverre Fehn Architecture

(Buchhandlung Walther König)

Presenting nearly sixty built and unbuilt projects, this publication considers the architecture of Norwegian architect Sverre Fehn (1924–2009) and his art of constructing spaces through work redrawn from his archive and new photographs by Stefano Graziani.

Aglaya K. Glebova

Berkeley, CA

Aleksandr Rodchenko and Photography in the Age of Stalin

(Yale University Press)

A monograph that reexamines the alleged end of modernism in the 1930s Soviet Union through the lesser-known photographic work of Aleksandr Rodchenko (1891–1956) that reveals an attempt at a revolutionary art that could accommodate contemplation, suspension, and divergence.

Nicolas Grospierre

Warsaw, Poland

A House for Culture

(National Institute for Architecture and Urban Planning)

The communal architecture of the Israeli Kibbutz and the Soviet Kolkhoz and their contemporary legacies are showcased in this book.

Forensic Oceanography: Charles Heller and Lorenzo Pezzani

London, United Kingdom and Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Agitated Waters: Migration, Borders, and Activism in the Wake of the Mediterranean Spring

(Zone Books)

Bringing together eight years of Forensic Oceanography (FO)'s unique practice-based research, this book unravels the new geographies of power, legal architectures, and surveillance apparatuses that have transformed the Mediterranean into a deadly frontier zone and reflects upon the methods of spatial analysis FO has forged to contest shifting modalities of border violence.

Nana Last

Charlottesville, VA

Archive Matrix Assembly: The Photography of Thomas Struth
(AR+D Applied Research and Design Publishing)

The first comprehensive volume of contemporary German artist Thomas Struth's photography, the book proposes that the content and accumulation of Struth's photographic images evolve through three phases of development—from the late 1970s through 2020.

Roberta Marcaccio

Edinburgh, United Kingdom

The Hero of Doubt
(MIT Press)

This book makes a collection of writings by the architect, editor, critic, proselytizer, and educator Ernesto Nathan Rogers (1909–1969)—a central figure in postwar architecture, yet underrecognized in modern historiography—available in English for the first time.

Sarah M. Miller

Oakland, CA

Documentary in Dispute: The Original Manuscript of Changing New York by Berenice Abbott and Elizabeth McCausland
(Ryerson Image Centre/MIT Press)

This project reconstructs the unpublished original manuscript of *Changing New York*—the iconic 1939 book created collaboratively by photographer Berenice Abbott and art critic Elizabeth McCausland—alongside archival material and new scholarship that offers contemporary insight into the history and impact of the influential publication.

Catherine Seavitt Nordenson

New York, NY

The Miasmist: George E. Waring, Jr. and the Sanitary Landscape
(University of Texas Press)

A historiography of nineteenth-century sanitary engineer George E. Waring, Jr., this book evaluates the broad arc of Waring's career and his connection of the urban landscape and its atmosphere with public health—while reckoning with the influence of his “miasmatic” approach on the American empire's constructions of race, hygiene, and disease.

Territorial Agency: John Palmesino and Ann-Sofi Rönnskog

London, United Kingdom

Territorial Agency: Oceans in Transformation

(Sternberg Press)

By analyzing the complex dynamics of the interactions between human activities and the global ocean, this Anthropocene publication presents the ocean as a sensorium, a complex architecture that records the transformations of the Earth and its dynamics, and inscribes back its cycles into the evolutions and adaptation of life forms shaped by the intensification of the impact of human activities on the Earth.

Spyros Papapetros and Gerd Zillner

New York, NY and Vienna, Austria

Frederick Kiesler's Magic Architecture: The Story of Human Housing

(MIT Press)

Publication of a critical edition of the Austrian-American architect Frederick Kiesler's most extensive yet hitherto unpublished book manuscript that illustrates the story of human housing from prehistory to the atomic age written at the close of World War II.

Christina Schwenkel

Riverside, CA

Building Socialism: The Afterlife of East German Design in Urban Vietnam

(Duke University Press)

This book examines the North-South circulation of East German architectural models and utopian design ideas to rebuild Vietnam's most bombed city as a center of socialist modernity, and how Vietnamese urban planners, officials, and residents modified and remade unfamiliar built forms according to their own spatial logics and cultural practices.

Delia Duong Ba Wendel

Cambridge, MA

Rwanda's Genocide Heritage: Between Memory and Sovereignty

(Duke University Press)

This book explores how and why genocide sites and bodies were preserved in Rwanda, revealing the fraught ethics and politics of the endeavor and its role in shaping late twentieth century counter-memory practices in the Global South.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (18 awards)

Pak Khawateen Painting Club: Malika Abbas, Saulat Ajmal, Amna Hashmi, Saba Khan, Natasha Malik, Zohreen Murtaza, and Emaan Shaikh

Lahore, Pakistan

Barrages and the Fragmentation of the River Indus

This research examines the impact of modern barrages—dams built to divert water—on the Lower River Indus Basin in Pakistan and water histories around its peripheries.

Anthony Acciavatti

New York, NY

Building a Republic of Villages

Inspired by an idea investigated by multidisciplinary researchers since the nineteenth century, this project explores the power of images and objects to persuade nonliterate people how to assist with nation building in South Asia and beyond.

Christina E. Crawford

Atlanta, GA

Atlanta Housing Interplay: Expanding the Interwar Housing Map

This open access monograph and digital public history project charts a geography of architectural influence into and out of Atlanta during the New Deal, focusing on the first federally funded (segregated) public housing projects in the US—Techwood and University Homes—as nodes of intense social and spatial exchange between Europe, the American South, and the rest of the US.

Ghazal Jafari

Charlottesville, VA

Rivers of Power

By countermapping transformations of the Karun River Basin in Khuzestan, this multimedia historical narrative reveals the role of American politicians, bureaucrats, and design missionaries in weaponization of constructed grounds to promote extraction and support centralized geopolitical control over Indigenous tribes in southern Mesopotamia and Zagros plains.

Andrés Jaque and Bart-Jan Polman

New York, NY

OFFSHORECRACY: A Study of How Offshore Regimes Act Architecturally

A study that presents the emergence of a new socio-territorial architecture that is both the outcome of (and a contributing force within) the creation of the global offshore conditions that have entered our collective consciousness through the release of the so-called Panama and Paradise Papers.

Gelare Khoshgozaran

Los Angeles, CA

Inviolable Exteriors

The project follows the history of the now-vacant former Iranian Embassy in Washington DC, considering the political and symbolic implications of its current liminal state of slow decay in the absence of diplomatic ties between the two nations and the extant US sanctions on Iran.

Jorge L. Lizardi Pollock

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Wicked Colonial Nostalgias: Power, Tragedy, and Heritage-Making in Caribbean Cities

The research project explores power and identity politics within architectural preservation ideas and practices in Caribbean cities during the perilous times of the Cold War and unveils social dramas behind nostalgia for a Hispanic past.

Kera Lovell

Incheon, South Korea

The People's Park: Work, the Body, and the Built Environment in Radical Postwar Placemaking

This project analyzes park design as a medium for protest, focusing on how insurgent park creations became a widespread method of creative resistance against urban renewal, police brutality, and environmental racism in the late Vietnam War era.

Jessica Lynne

Newport News, VA

Drafts for an Epic

A series of essays that illuminate intergenerational histories of Black Southern female cultural production, including content discovered in the archives of the artist, architect, and designer, Amaza Lee Meredith (1895–1984).

Geoff Manaugh

Los Angeles, CA

Invisible Cities: Architecture's Geophysical Turn

This project explores the technical and poetic implications of geophysical prospecting tools—such as ground-penetrating radar and magnetometry—and asks how these instruments are changing the very nature of architectural history, including the recognition and definition of ruins.

Kareem Rabie

Washington, DC

Everywhere in the World there is a Chinatown; in China there is a Khaliltown

Combining visual methodology with approaches from cultural anthropology and human geography, this project uncovers the social and political dimensions of commodity production, containerization, logistics, and trade between the West Bank and China.

Juana Salcedo

Bogotá, Colombia

A Cartography of Interconnection: Jaguars, Humans, and the Redesign of Urbanscapes in the Americas

Research that contextualizes the impacts and intersections of nature and humans in urban regions that overlap with the Jaguar Corridor Initiative—an unprecedented large-scale conservation project to prevent the fragmentation of the jaguar habitat in the Americas.

Beatriz A. Santos

Orlando, FL

The "Race Colony:" An Architectural Threshold to the Realization of Freedom

Among other communities in the US, this research investigates Eatonville, Florida—the first African American incorporated municipality—in order to understand the “race colony” and chattel slavery era settlements as the genesis of racial and urban upheaval and as spaces of independence and freedom.

Ishita Shah

Bangalore, India

Revisiting Indian Architectural History: Mapping the Narratives of Women Practitioners of Twentieth Century India

This project documents the contributions of first-generation women architects of India in order to expand the narrative of India's twentieth century architectural history through mediums such as a guide map, published research, and an open-access digital archive.

Kirsten Swenson

Lowell, MA

Public Works: Land Art and Urban Redevelopment

Addressing park design as a public art form, this project focuses on land remediation projects by Mierle Laderman Ukeles, Nancy Holt, Agnes Denes, and others, beginning in the late 1970s.

Jina Valentine

Chicago, IL

The Exhibit of American Negroes, Revisited

This series revisits W.E.B. Du Bois' modernist data visualizations from the 1900 *Exhibit of American Negroes* using contemporary census data on the lives of Black Americans.

Oliver Wainwright

London, United Kingdom

The New Utopias

A research project that interrogates the new breed of planned cities being built around the world, unpacking the motivating social, political, and economic ideologies and critically examining the effects.

Ed Wall

London, United Kingdom

Expanding Architectural Operations

The frequently complimentary, and occasionally conflicting, practices of the world's largest architectural corporations as they design, build, manage, govern, secure, and militarize cities is studied in this project.

ABOUT THE GRAHAM FOUNDATION

Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts fosters the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture and society. The Graham realizes this vision through making project-based grants to individuals and organizations, and by producing exhibitions, events and publications.

The Graham Foundation was created by a bequest from Ernest R. Graham (1866–1936), a prominent Chicago architect and protégé of Daniel Burnham.

UPCOMING GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

Grants to Individuals Inquiry Form Due September 15, 2020

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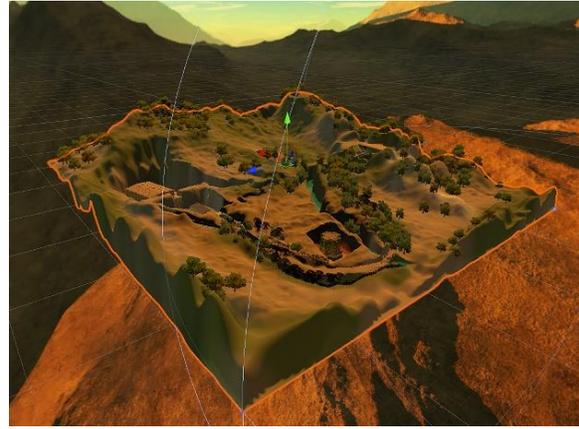
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In addition to the high-resolution images that are available on the press section of our website, please let us know if you are interested in any of the images from the grantee profile pages. To access our website's press section or to request any other images, email James Pike for the login information.



Photograph of Ethel Madison Bailey Furman (1893–1976) with fellow architects at the Hampton Institute's "Negro Contractors' Conference," Richmond, Virginia, 1928. Courtesy the Ethel Bailey Furman, Papers and architectural drawings, 1928–2003, Accession 41145. Personal Papers Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. From the 2020 Individual grant to Jay Cephas for *Black Architects Archive*



Abyssinian Cyber Vernaculus, 2019. 3-D generated terrain of Lalibela region in Ethiopia. Courtesy the artist. From the 2020 individual grant to Miriam Hillawi Abraham for *Abyssinian Cyber Vernaculus*



Chiura Obata, *New Moon*, not before 1943. Chiura Obata papers, circa 1891–2000, 1942–1945. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. Photo: Kurl Swartz. From the 2020 individual grant to Julie Ault for *Hidden in Plain Sight: Selected Writings of Karin Higa*



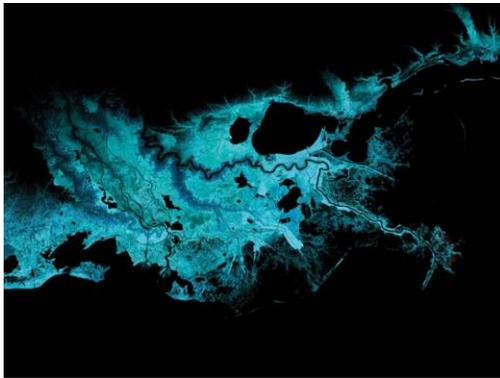
Barbara Kasten, *Barbara Kasten/Chicago*, 2018. Installation view, S.R. Crown Hall, Chicago. Courtesy the artist. From the 2020 individual grant to Stephanie Cristello for *Barbara Kasten: Architecture & Film (2015–2020)*



*"Heroic mother" laying one of the first bricks to rebuild Vinh City in collaboration with East German architects and planners, 1974. Courtesy Vietnam News Agency. From the 2020 individual grant to Christina Schwenkel for *Building Socialism: The Afterlife of East German Architecture in Urban Vietnam**



Special issue of *Muang Thai* pictorial magazine celebrating Constitution Day, December 1941. Courtesy the Government Department of Public Relations, Thailand. From the 2020 individual grant to Lawrence Chua for *Bangkok Utopia: Modern Architecture and Buddhist Felicities, 1910–1973*



Territorial Agency, *Oceans in Transformation*, 4° global warming sea-level rise scenario along Gulf Coast according to Climate Central projections, 2020. Commissioned by TBA21–Academy, © Territorial Agency. From the 2020 individual grant to Territorial Agency: John Palmesino and Ann-Sofi Rönnskog for *Territorial Agency: Oceans in Transformation*



Zoe Leonard, detail from *Al Rio/To the River*, 2016–21. Gelatin silver prints. © the artist. From the 2020 individual grant to Zoe Leonard for *Al Rio/To the River*