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Making Time: Essays on the Nature of Los Angeles

William L. Fox

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Making Time: Essays on the Nature of Los Angeles William L. Fox
William L. Fox is a longtime explorer of cognition and landscape — the notion of what makes a space into a place. In this book he turns his gaze on Los Angeles, a city dominated by the movie industry, which specializes in bringing places from far away in time into what we experience as here and now — making time, in essence. Time, Fox tells us, is the most invisible nature of all, “its effects are always and everywhere around us.”

The five essays of this collection take us to the Le Brea Tar Pits and local oilfields, the telescopes and telecommunication towers of Mt. Wilson, massive landfills, the Forest Lawn Memorial and Griffith parks, a Hollywood special effects firm, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. All of these facilities are devoted to manipulating time on our behalf, be it how we represent prehistory, attempt to maintain an identity after death, or make movies on Mars.

A master of combining science, history, and his own experiences into a riveting read, Fox will make you look at L.A. — and any urban landscape — in an entirely new way.

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