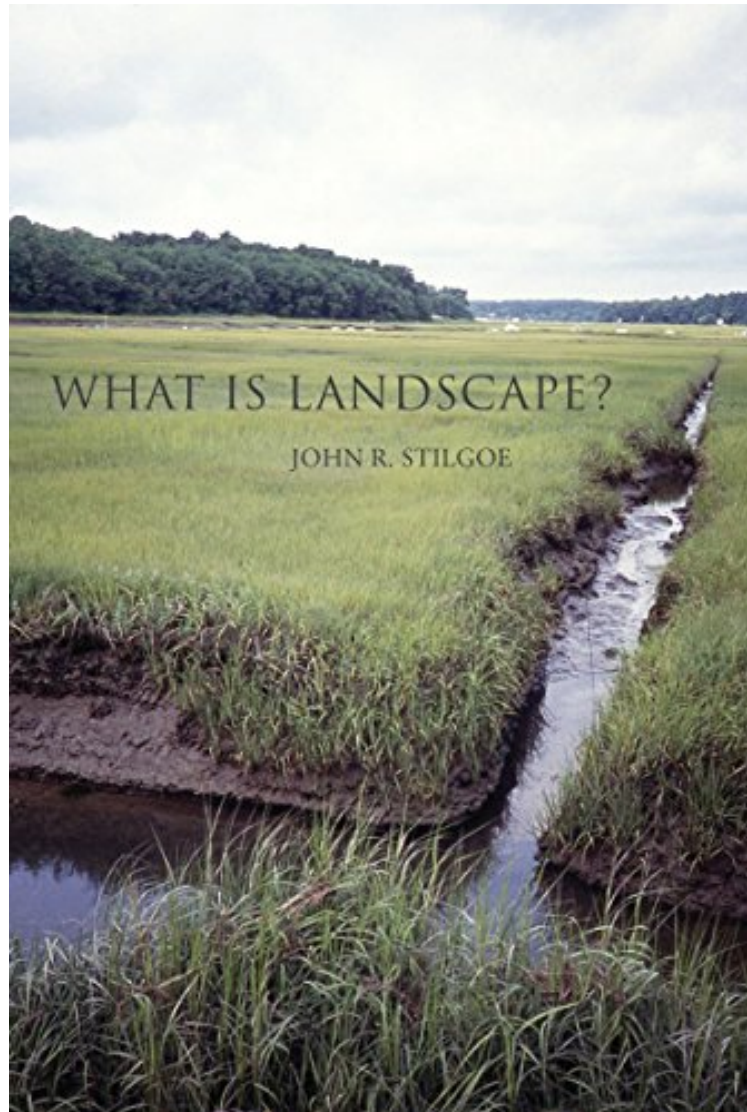


[Download pdf] What Is Landscape? (MIT Press)

What Is Landscape? (MIT Press)

John R. Stilgoe

*ePub / *DOC / audiobook / ebooks / Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#267275 in eBooks 2015-10-16 2015-10-16 File Name: B019PSBN7Q | File size: 20.Mb

John R. Stilgoe : What Is Landscape? (MIT Press) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Is Landscape? (MIT Press):

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Philip F. Donovana totally unique book for a change, it may forever alter your perceptions2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerLike all of Stilgoe's work, this book is a delight to read!4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not What I ExpectedBy Mary CarhartThis book is for mental excursions, glimpses of past times, and casual lectures. The lectures come from a fund of knowledge that the author must have accumulated over many years. He is a student of etymology (word history) with a shelf of old and historic dictionaries. Starting with all aspects of the lands we walk, including

seashores, farm fields and bridges, he tells what they encompass and how they got their names. But he also encourages the reader to simply pay more attention to what he sees around him. Look up from your phone. Enjoy the natural wonders and ponder what man has done to alter nature. It isn't all bad.

"Mr. Stilgoe does not ask that we take his book outdoors with us; he believes that reading and experiencing landscapes are activities that should be kept separate. But, as I learned in his book, the hollow storage area in a car driver's door was once a holster, the 'secure nesting place of a pistol.' I recommend you stow your copy there." -- The Wall Street Journal
Landscape, John Stilgoe tells us, is a noun. From the old Frisian language (once spoken in coastal parts of the Netherlands and Germany), it meant shoveled land: landschop. Sixteenth-century Englishmen misheard or mispronounced this as landskep, which became landskip, then landscape, designating the surface of the earth shaped for human habitation. In *What Is Landscape?* Stilgoe maps the discovery of landscape by putting words to things, zeroing in on landscape's essence but also leading sideways expeditions through such sources as children's picture books, folklore, deeds, antique terminology, out-of-print dictionaries, and conversations with locals. ("What is that?" "Well, it's not really a slough, not really, it's a bayou...") He offers a highly original, cogent, compact, gracefully written narrative lexicon of landscape as word, concept, and path to discoveries. *What Is Landscape?* is an invitation to walk, to notice, to ask: to see a sandcastle with a pinwheel at the beach and think of Dutch windmills -- icons of triumph, markers of territory won from the sea; to walk in the woods and be amused by the Elizabethans' misuse of the Latin *silvaticus* (people of the woods) to coin the word savages; to see in a suburban front lawn a representation of the meadow of a medieval freehold. Discovering landscape is good exercise for body and for mind. This book is an essential guide and companion to that exercise -- to understanding, literally and figuratively, what landscape is.

This slim but densely packed volume affords innumerable insights into the relationships between language, landscape, history, and human perception. Weaving together long-lost lore, etymological esoterica, and astute observations on ongoing developments, Stilgoe challenges common assumptions and imbues overlooked environments with unheralded significance. (Timothy Davis, National Park Service landscape historian)
John Stilgoe approaches the question 'What is landscape?' with a deep appreciation for the ways the environment is naturally endowed and a keen understanding of how it is culturally shaped. By exposing the historical roots of words we use to describe our world, he reveals our place in it. (Allan W. Shearer, Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Sustainable Development, The University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture)
With the energy and wisdom of a lifelong landscape traveler, Stilgoe leads us toward the deepest recesses of language and the most primal human labors, through it all urging us to pay more attention and to take more walks of our own. A remarkable and entirely original book. (Michael Van Valkenburgh, Charles Eliot Professor of Landscape Architecture, Harvard Graduate School of Design)
Stilgoe answers the question 'What is landscape?' with a remarkable work of art, one of his finest. Reading these pages is like taking a walk through time and place with an unparalleled guide. Wandering through the history of words, Stilgoe's unique itinerary exposes layers of meaning and significance in the most unexpected ways and places. This is another classic which picks up where *Shallow Water Dictionary* leaves off. Take this walk. (Teri Rueb, Professor of Media Study, University at Buffalo)
Stilgoe's love of language and the land sees him ploughing through outdated and specialist dictionaries for our benefit, in this illuminating and entertaining book.
Reading this will have you thinking anew about words, as it breaks down both the language and the land that it may originate from or be attached to. (Irish Times)
You... will find sentences that speak to you so personally as to feel thrilling, almost spookily so. (The Wall Street Journal)
Stilgoe's book champions landscape studies as a discipline founded on curiosity and deep, associative thought, open to byways, discovery, and the occasional absurdity, rewarding for amateurs and seasoned practitioners alike. (Publishers Weekly)
Lovers of dictionaries and nature can rejoice in John Stilgoe's new book. (The Paris)
About the Author
John R. Stilgoe is Orchard Professor in the History of Landscape at Harvard University, where he has taught for forty years. He is the author of many books, most recently *Old Fields: Photography, Glamour, and Fantasy Landscape*.