Perceptions of Los Angeles

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Los Angeles, like all cities, is a dynamic place comprised of both physical elements—buildings, infrastructure, and landscape—and temporal qualities such as habitation, weather, and mood. While maps of L.A. tend to privilege the fixed, physical aspects of the city over the more fleeting experiential qualities, architects and artists throughout the city’s history have explored alternate means of representation that convey distinct perceptual understandings of L.A. as a particular place.

This micro-seminar will look at examples of such work from both art and architecture, particularly in the last half century. Thematic visual examples, including drawings, collages, photographs, and films, will be presented and discussed. Students will produce their own perceptual drawings on the second day of the micro-seminar. No prior drawing experience is required.