

Guide to the Connecting the Dots: For a Just Transition

WA Photos Folio 221



by Matthew Daniel Mason

November 2021

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: WA Photos Folio 221

CREATOR: Wilson, Will, 1969- , photographer

TITLE: Connecting the Dots: For a Just Transition

DATES: 2019-2021

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 13.5 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English (Latin script)

SUMMARY: Inkjet prints of photographic images created by Will Wilson for his series, *Connecting the Dots: For a Just Transition*, 2019-2021. In an artist's statement for the series, Wilson writes that it "intends to shape a platform for voices of resilience, Indigenous knowledge and restorative systems of remediation while bearing witness to a history of environmental damage and communal loss on the Navajo Nation."

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To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Will Wilson on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2021.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Will Wilson, *Connecting the Dots: For a Just Transition*. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, as well as more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This guide derives from a detailed examination of each print. Titles transcribed from inscriptions on prints and corrected in notes when necessary. Dates in the collection reflect the date of image capture.

Will Wilson (born 1969)

Will Wilson is a Diné photographer. He studied photography at Oberlin College (Bachelor of Arts, Studio Art and Art History, 1993) and the University of New Mexico (Master of Fine Arts in Photography, 2002). Since 2014, Wilson has supervised the photography program in the School of Arts, Design and Media Arts at Santa Fe Community College, New Mexico.

Scope and Contents

Inkjet prints of photographic images created by Will Wilson for his series, *Connecting the Dots: For a Just Transition*, 2019-2021.

In an artist's statement for the series, Wilson states that it "intends to shape a platform for voices of resilience, Indigenous knowledge and restorative systems of remediation while bearing witness to a history of environmental damage and communal loss on the Navajo Nation." Locations for the images are chiefly at Dinétah (Diné for "among the people"), the ancestral homelands of the Diné at northwestern New Mexico, southwestern Colorado, southeastern Utah, and northeastern Arizona, as well as the Navajo Indian Reservation within it. Wilson continues in his statement that the project presents "a photographic survey of the over 500 Abandoned Uranium Mines (AUMs) located on the Navajo Nation. These AUMs are physical manifestations of a complex and traumatic history that has poisoned the land and endangered a people," and that the investigation focuses "on the toxic legacy of uranium extraction and processing on Dinétah that continues to threaten the health of our people and land." He concludes that by "bearing witness to these sites, and the front-line communities affected by them, the project will serve as a catalyst for designing innovative solutions that refocus our understanding of what remediation can be."

Sites identified in the images include sites in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

Sites at Arizona include abandoned mines at Cameron, including the Section 9 Lease Mines on Babbitt Ranches property near the Little Colorado River as well as the disposal cell site in Tuba City related to a mill operated by the Rare Metals Corporation of America.

Sites at New Mexico include abandoned mines and disposal sites at Ambrosia and Shiprock as well as an uranium mill operated by the United Nuclear Corporation at Church Rock mill and the location of the large accidental release of radioactive material in July 1979.

Sites at Utah include views of uranium disposal cells at Mexican Hat.

Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on versos. Inscriptions on versos of many prints provide contextual information about the images.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Arizona, 2019-2021. II. New Mexico, 2019-2021. III. Utah, 2019-2020.

Collection Contents

Series I: Arizona, 2019–2021

Series I is organized into three subseries: Cameron, Section 9 Lease Mines, and Tuba City.

Cameron

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 1 (Oversize), f. 1	<i>A & B No. 3, Abandoned Uranium Mine, Cameron, Arizona, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 31 x 50 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 2	<i>A & B No. 3, Abandoned Uranium Mine, Vertical Panorama, Cameron, Arizona, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 53 x 41 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2019
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 3	<i>Cameron Chapter Complex 1, Detail, Cameron, Arizona, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 32 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2020
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 4	<i>Cameron Chapter Complex 1, Groundview, Cameron, Arizona, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 23 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2019
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 5	<i>Cameron Chapter Complex 1, Northview, Cameron, Arizona, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 32 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019

Section 9 Lease Mines

The Section 9 Lease Mines are three abandoned uranium mine sites located near the Little Colorado River in Northern Arizona. The mines are located just outside the Navajo Nation and approximately ten miles southeast of Cameron, Arizona. In 2016, EPA signed a legal agreement called an Administrative Order on Consent with Babbitt Ranches, a family-owned land company that raises livestock and manages natural resources, wherein the company agreed to perform a Removal Site Evaluation on the two mines on their property.

b. 1 (Oversize), f. 6	<i>Babbitt Ranch Upgrader, Adjacent to the Little Colorado River, Arizona, Diné'tah</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 35 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 7	<i>Babbitt Ranch Upgrader, Detail, Arizona, Diné'tah</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 48 x 39 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 8	<i>Babbitt Ranch Upgrader, Panorama, Adjacent to the Little Colorado River, Arizona, Diné'tah</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 13 x 55 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019

Section 9 Lease Mines (continued)

b. 1 (Oversize), f. 9	<i>Babbitt Ranch Upgrader, Vertical Composite, Arizona, Dinéah</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 52 x 35 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 10	<i>Babbitt Ranch Upgrader, View 2, Arizona, Dinéah</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 35 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
Tuba City Arranged alphabetically.		
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 11	<i>Rare Metals Disposal Cell Sign, Tuba City, Arizona, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 36 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2019
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 12	<i>Rare Metals Disposal Cell, Tuba City, Arizona, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 34 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2019
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 13	<i>Rare Metals Disposal Cell, Northview 1, with Former Worker Housing Foundations, Tuba City, Arizona, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 39 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2019
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 14	<i>Rare Metals Disposal Cell, Northview 2, with Former Worker Housing Foundations, Tuba City, Arizona, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 39 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 15	<i>Rare Metals Disposal Cell, Straight Down View, Tuba City, Arizona, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 33 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 16	<i>Moenkopi Wash with Tuba City and Curley Valley on Right and Rare Metals Disposal Cell on Left, Tuba City, Arizona, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 18 x 54 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2021

Series II: New Mexico, 2019–2021

Series II is organized into three subseries: Ambrosia, Church Rock, and Shiprock.

Ambrosia

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 17	<i>Ambrosia Lake Uranium Disposal Cells, Ambrosia, New Mexico, Dinétah</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 22 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm	2021
Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 18	<i>Ambrosia Lake Uranium Disposal Cells, Site B (East of Route 509), Ambrosia, New Mexico, Dinétah, Diptych Right</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 30 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm	2021
Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 19	<i>Ambrosia Lake Uranium Disposal Cells, Site B (West of Route 509), Ambrosia, New Mexico, Dinétah, Diptych Left</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 39 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm	2021
Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 20	<i>Ambrosia Lake Uranium Mines Gate 1, Ambrosia, New Mexico, Dinétah</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 25 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm	2021
Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 21	<i>Ambrosia Lake Uranium Mines, Disposal Cells, East of Route 509, Ambrosia, New Mexico, Dinétah, Diptych II, Right</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 42 x 51 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm	2021
Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 22	<i>Ambrosia Lake Uranium Mines, Disposal Cells, West of Route 509, Ambrosia, New Mexico, Dinétah, Diptych II, Left</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 42 x 51 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm	2021
Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso		
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 23	<i>Ambrosia Lake Uranium Mines, East of Route 509 with Tsoodzil (Mount Taylor) on Horizon, Ambrosia, New Mexico, Dinétah</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 29 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm	2021
Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso		

Church Rock

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 24	<i>Church Rock Uranium Mill Spill Site, Remediation Evaporation Ponds Intended to Prevent Further Groundwater Contamination, Church Rock, New Mexico, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 42 x 47 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm	2019
Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso		

Church Rock (continued)

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 25 *Danger Sign, Church Rock Uranium Mines, Site of Church Rock Uranium Mill Spill, July 16, 1979* 2020
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 52 x 35 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm
 Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 26 *United Nuclear Corporation shed South of Church Rock Uranium Mill Spill, Church Rock, New Mexico, Navajo Nation* 2020
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 33 x 54 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm
 Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image

Shiprock

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 27 *Neighborhood behind Shiprock Disposal Cell, Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo Nation* 2020
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 28 x 55 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm
 Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 28 *Shiprock Disposal Cell Sign, Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo Nation* 2020
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 19 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm
 Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso as well as contextual information about the image

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 29 *Shiprock Disposal Cell with San Juan River, Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo Nation* 2020
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 23 x 55 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm
 Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 30 *Shiprock Disposal Cell with San Juan River, Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo Nation, Diptych, Left Panel* 2020
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 43 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm
 Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 31 *Shiprock Disposal Cell with San Juan River, Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo Nation, Diptych, Right Panel* 2020
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 42 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm
 Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 32 *Shiprock Disposal Cell, Northview, Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo Nation* 2020
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 13 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm
 Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 33 *Shiprock Disposal Cell, Northview, Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo Nation, Diptych, Left Panel* 2020
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 28 x 55 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm
 Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 34 *Shiprock Disposal Cell, Northview, Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo Nation, Diptych, Right Panel* 2020
1 inkjet jet print, color image, 27 x 55 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm
 Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso

Shiprock (continued)

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 35	<i>Shiprock Disposal Cell, Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 40 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2020
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 36	<i>Shiprock Disposal Cell, Sunset, Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 39 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2020
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 37	<i>Shiprock Disposal Cell, Wide Angle Detail, Shiprock New Mexico, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 29 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2020
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 38	<i>Shiprock Disposal Cell, with San Juan River, Winter, Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 28 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2020

Series III: Utah, 2019–2020

Series III is arranged alphabetically.

b. 4 (Oversize), f. 39	<i>Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Cylindrical Projection Panorama, Mexican Hat, Utah, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 30 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 40	<i>Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Detail, Mexican Hat, Utah, Navajo Nation (Triptych)</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 46 x 41 cm, on sheet, 56 x 44 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 5 (Oversize)	<i>Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Four Panel Panorama, Mexican Hat, Utah, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 31 x 172 cm, on sheet, 44 x 193 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image; sheet folded and reinforced with linen tape by the photographer	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 41	<i>Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Mexican Hat, Utah, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 35 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 42	<i>Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Mexican Hat, Utah, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, black-and-white image, 39 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 43	<i>Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Monument, with Radiation Monitor, Detail B</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 35 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 44	<i>Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Shot in 2019 and 2020, Mexican Hat, Utah, Navajo Nation (Triptych)</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 36 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 45	<i>Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Staging Area Study, Mexican Hat, Utah, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 23 x 53 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2020
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 46	<i>Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, View from the West, Panorama, Mexican Hat, Utah, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 24 x 54 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 47	<i>Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Warning Sign, Mexican Hat, Utah, Navajo Nation</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 35 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso	2019
b. 4 (Oversize), f. 48	<i>Monument, Mexican Hat Disposal Cell, Mexican Hat, Utah, Navajo Nation (Triptych)</i> 1 inkjet jet print, color image, 35 x 52 cm, on sheet, 44 x 56 cm Titled, dated, and signed by the photographer on the verso with contextual information about the image	2019

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Indians of North America -- Southwest, New --
Pictorial works
Navajo Indians -- Pictorial works
Photography, Artistic
Pollution in art -- Pictorial works
Radioactive pollution -- Navajo Indian
Reservation -- Pictorial works
Uranium mines and mining -- Navajo Indian
Reservation -- Pictorial works

Geographic Names

Arizona -- Pictorial works
Navajo Indian Reservation -- Pictorial works
New Mexico -- Pictorial works
Utah -- Pictorial works

Genres / Formats

Aerial photographs
Inkjet prints
Photographs

Acquired From

Wilson, Will, 1969- , bookseller