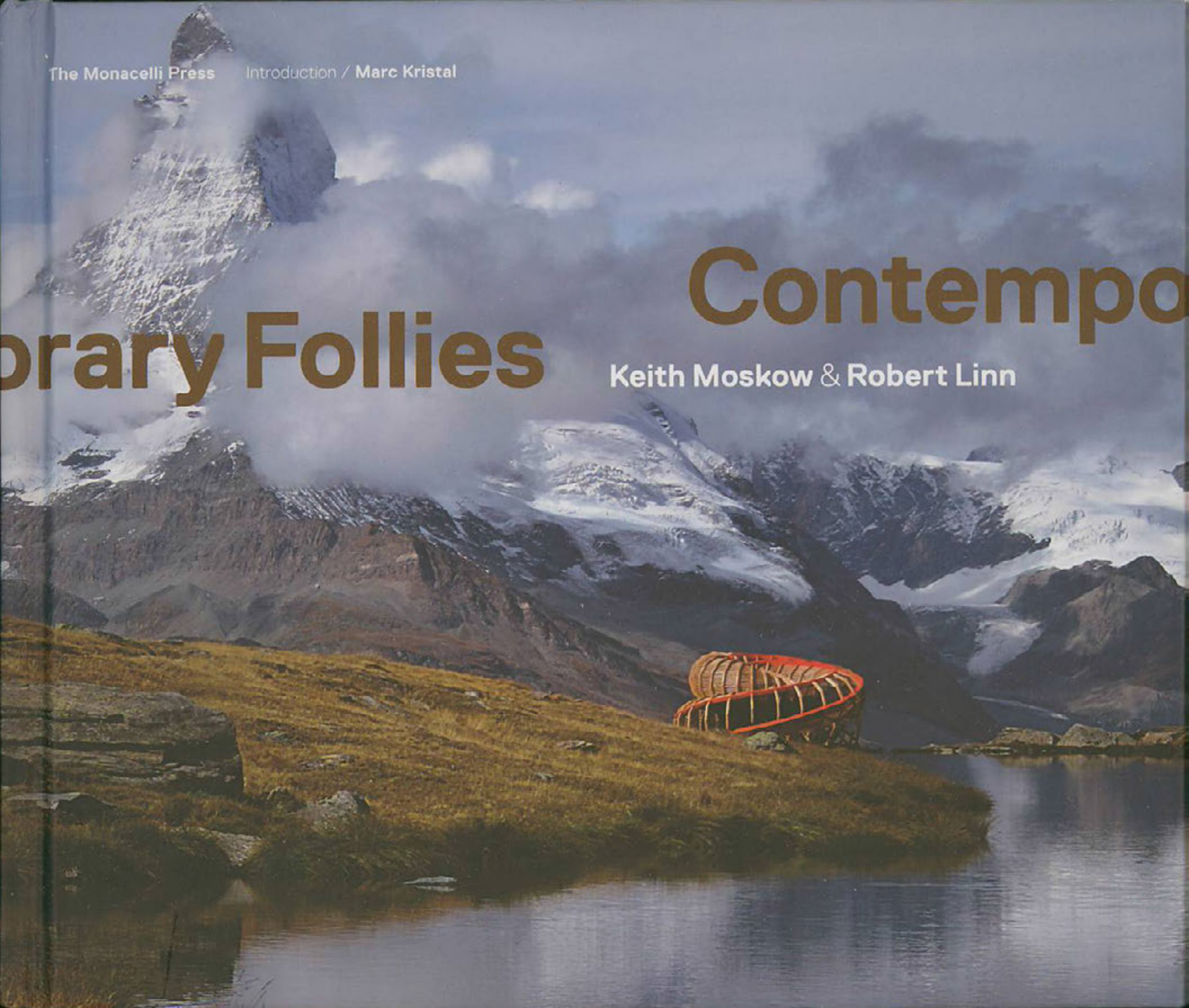


The Monacelli Press

Introduction / Marc Kristal

Contemporary Follies

Keith Moskow & Robert Linn





BALL-NOGUES STUDIO
NEAR JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK, TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIFORNIA

Yucca Crater

Yucca Crater is a synthetic earthwork that doubled as a recreational amenity during High Desert Test Sites in October 2011. High Desert Test Sites generates physical and conceptual spaces for art exploring the intersections between contemporary art and life at large. After the weekend event, Yucca Crater was abandoned to the entropic forces of the landscape.

Yucca Crater expanded on concepts borrowed from land art, alluding to the abandoned suburban swimming pools and ramshackle homesteads scattered across the Mojave Desert. The work resembled a basin that measured thirty feet from rim to low point and was sunk ten feet into the earth. Rock climbing holds

mounted on the interior allowed visitors to descend into a deep pool of salt water. The rough plywood structure of Yucca Crater was originally the formwork used to construct another Ball-Nogues work, Talus Dome, in which more than nine hundred boulder-sized polished metal spheres were assembled to appear as a monumental pile of gravel. The two projects were "cross-designed" such that the method of production used in the first (Talus Dome) has become the central aesthetic for the second (Yucca Crater).

