

## I investigate sites for different reasons

Geoffrey James – Clip 4

The show is called *Utopia/Dystopia*, but it might, it could have been called a lot of other things, because I don't think in terms of large themes. I think each specific body of area of investigation is something that can sustain me and allow me to make pictures that interest me. And I stumble into a lot of the subjects. You know I photographed the asbestos mining landscape in Quebec simply by driving by Thetford Mines one day on another project to photograph a garden. And as soon as I saw it, I realized that was something I had to do. Same was true for photographing the Mexican border where I'd been invited to go to work by a museum down there in San Diego. I had no interest at all in going to San Diego, didn't seem to be anything there for me. But I was there anyway, I saw the fence. I realized this was a powerful, compelling subject. I spent seven years photographing the work of the great landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted. That really came out of an essay by Robert Smithson, a wonderful essay about Olmsted by a great artist, and it just got me thinking about that subject and how little we knew about his legacy. So they're all different and they're interlinked in ways that you

probably have to read the catalogue to understand fully.