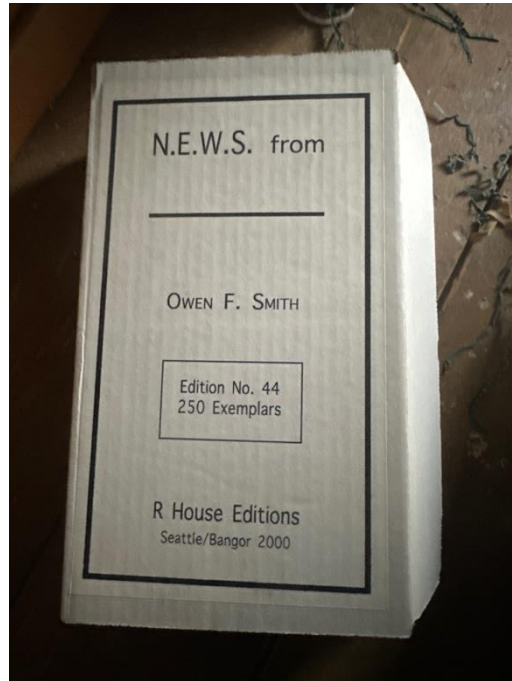


N.E.W.S. FROM SFSF



OWEN F. SMITH'S

“N.E.W.S. FROM HERE” PROJECT REDUX

**SANTA FE SYMPOSIUM FLUXUS
OCTOBER 15-17, 2026**

**NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF ART
VLADIMIR CONTEMPORARY**

**MICHAEL FILAS
WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY**

1999 VERSION

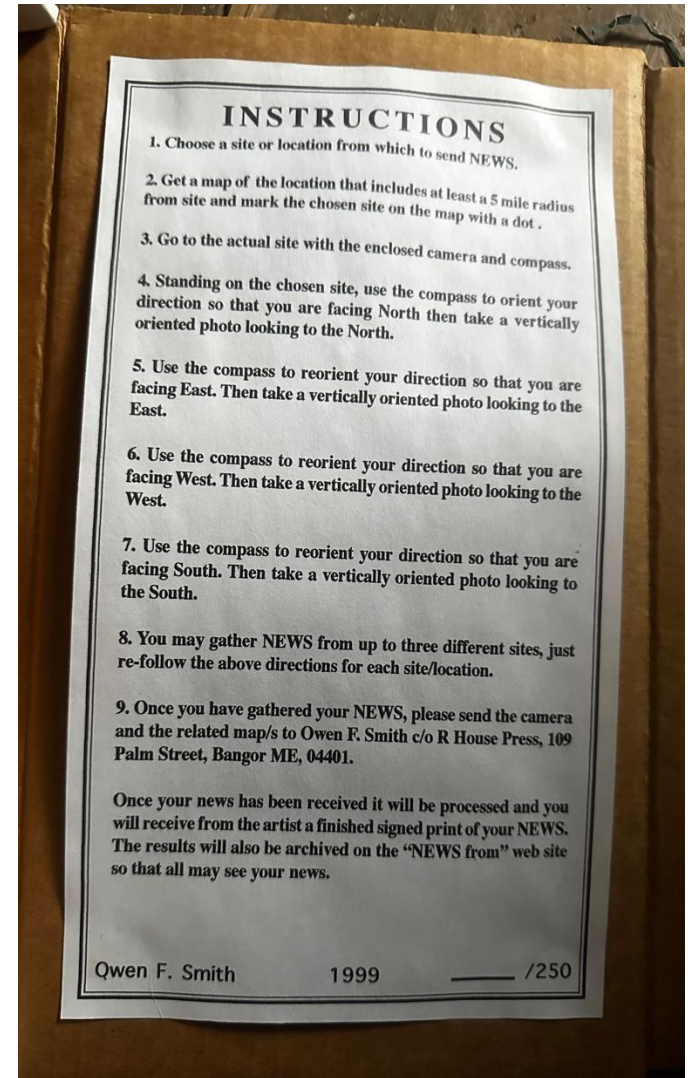
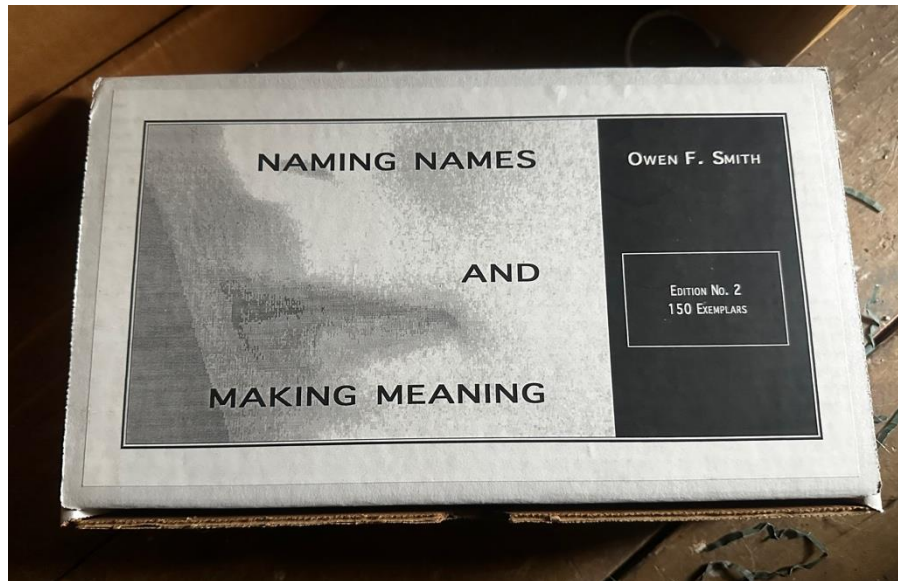
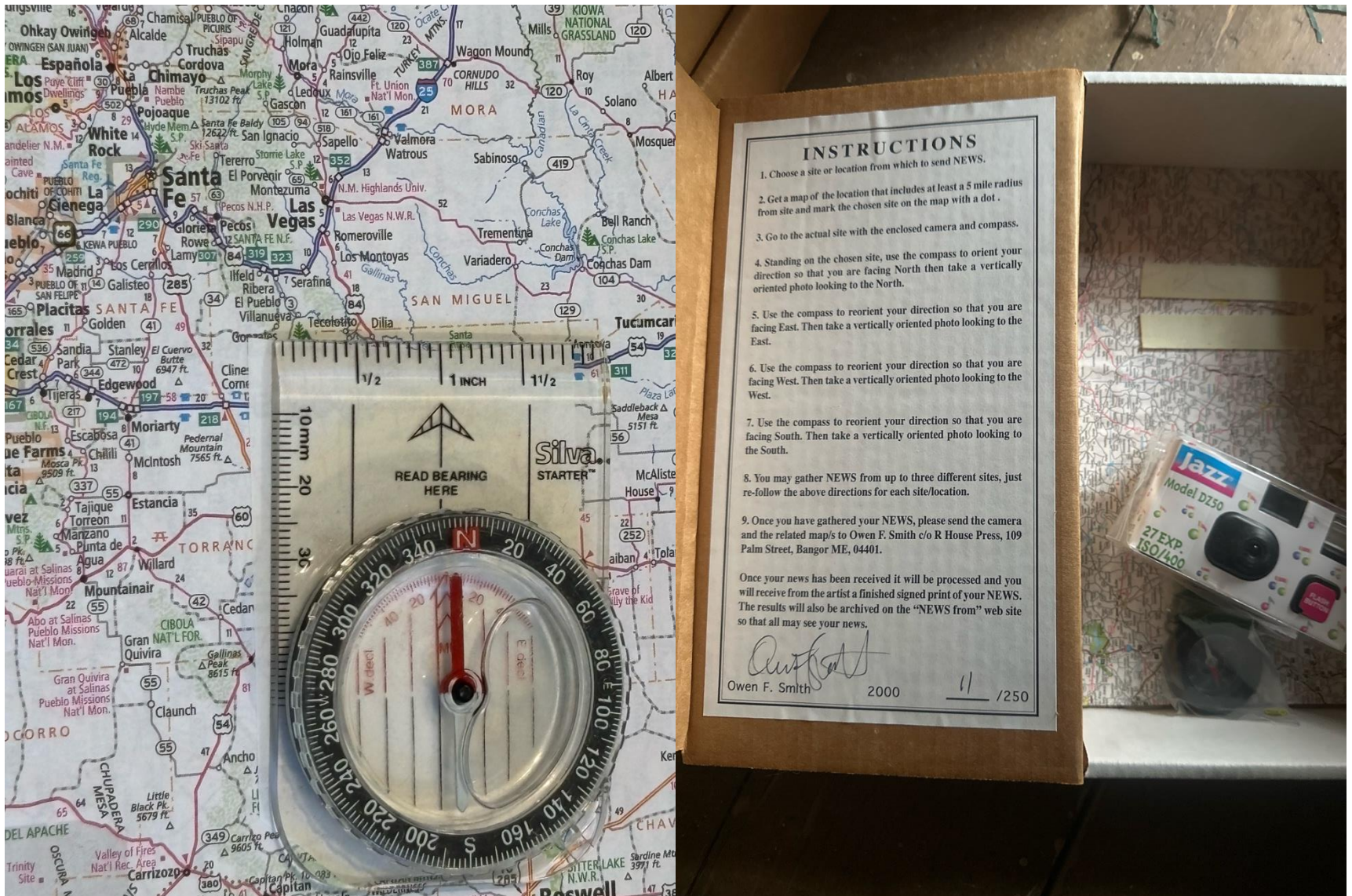


**PHOTO: KRISTA MOLNAR SMITH
MARCH 7, 2026**

N.E.W.S. FROM YOU CAPTIVE PARTICIPANTS WITH CELLPHONE CAMERAS IN 2026



A COLLECTIVE PROJECT

In 1999 Owen F. Smith created a mail art event, “Naming Names and Making Meaning,” Edition 2, with 150 Exemplars, each including a disposable camera, a compass, and a Fluxus score, or instructions, for participants.

Participants were to photograph their view facing due north, east, west, and south. Once done, they were to return the cameras to Owen for processing and would receive back their project, printed and produced by Owen, and also be added to a collective “N.E.W.S. From” website.

The “NEWS” was entirely visual, simply the four directional perspectives and the map with location marked. Owen’s project wasn’t realized online, but the idea, and the score/script endure.

The Instructions begin:

- 1. Choose a site or location from which to send N.E.W.S.**
- 2. Get a map of the location that includes at least a 5 mile radius of the site and mark the site on the location with a dot.**
- 3. Go to the actual site with the enclosed camera and compass.**
- 4. Standing on the chosen site, use the compass to orient your direction so that you are facing North then take a vertically oriented photo looking North.**

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose a site or location from which to send NEWS.
2. Get a map of the location that includes at least a 5 mile radius from site and mark the chosen site on the map with a dot .
3. Go to the actual site with the enclosed camera and compass.

A COLLECTIVE PROJECT, CONT.

5. Use a compass to reorient your direction so that you are facing East. Then take a vertically oriented photo looking to the East.

The numbered instructions proceed for the same exercise facing West and South, with the option to repeat the suite of photos at up to 3 additional sites, then send the camera to Owen, who would return the collected photos back to the participant, assembled and signed by the artist.

In 2000, Owen reissued the same Fluxus score in a planned edition of 250 multiples, this time named “N.E.W.S. From Here.” But he never realized his vision to collect the “N.E.W.S. From Here” photos on a website.

4. Standing on the chosen site, use the compass to orient your direction so that you are facing North then take a vertically oriented photo looking to the North.

5. Use the compass to reorient your direction so that you are facing East. Then take a vertically oriented photo looking to the East.

6. Use the compass to reorient your direction so that you are facing West. Then take a vertically oriented photo looking to the West.

7. Use the compass to reorient your direction so that you are facing South. Then take a vertically oriented photo looking to the South.

PARTICIPATION IS BUILT IN

“a direct understanding through participation is what will make Fluxus ultimately come alive.” — Owen F. Smith



UNIFORM DIRECTIONALITY



A DERIVATIVE EVENT: N.E.W.S. FROM SFSF

At the October 2026 [Santa Fe Symposium Fluxus \(SFSF\)](#) at the Vlodem Contemporary Art Museum, 24 participants contributed photos to the updated "N.E.W.S. From" project.

Place bound as a group in our symposium space, and wielding 21st century technology of cell phones and instant messaging through texts, participants memorialized and shared the view from where they stood, together, as their cameras looked North, then East, then West, then South. But they inserted themselves into the view: North selfie, East selfie, West selfie, South selfie.

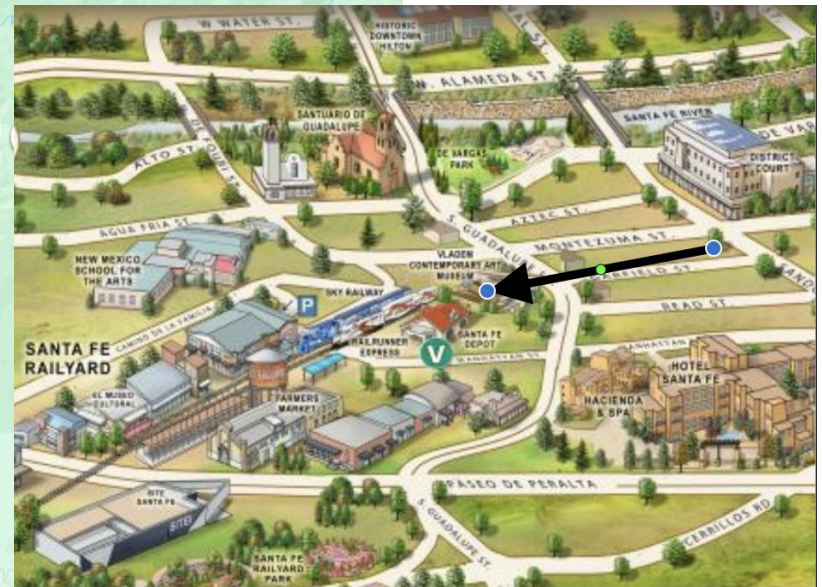
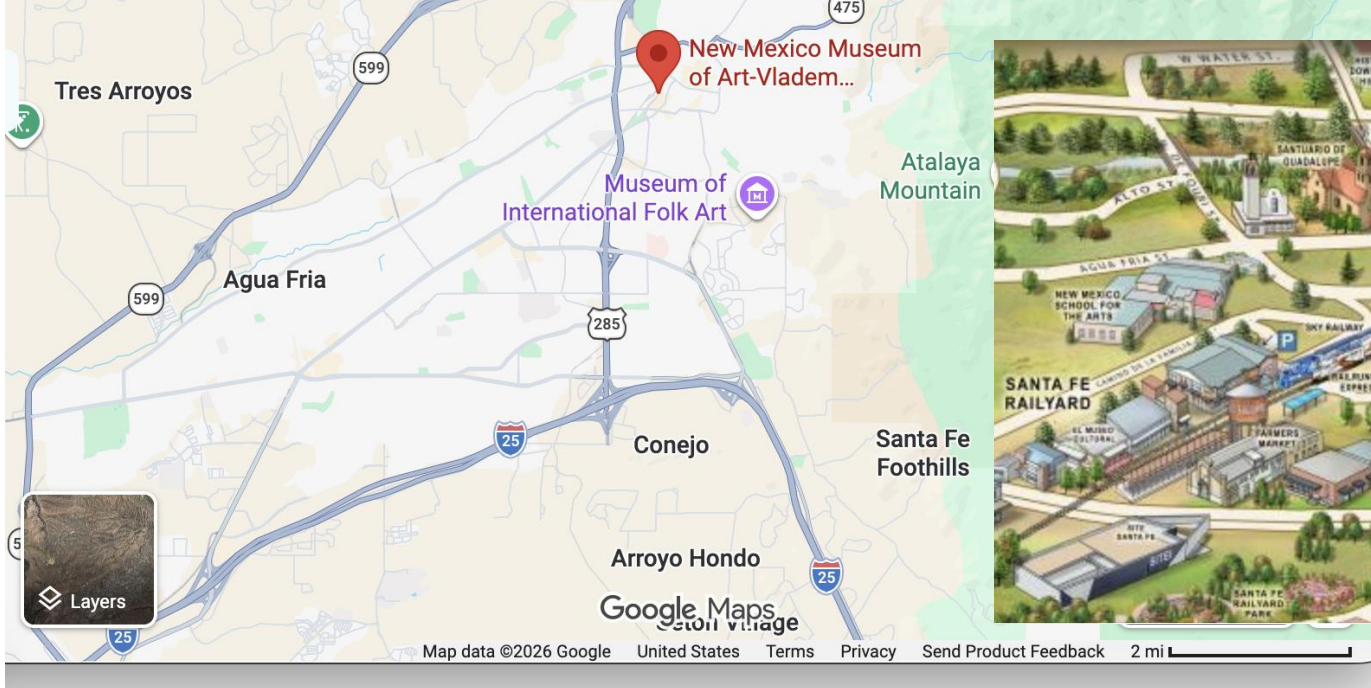
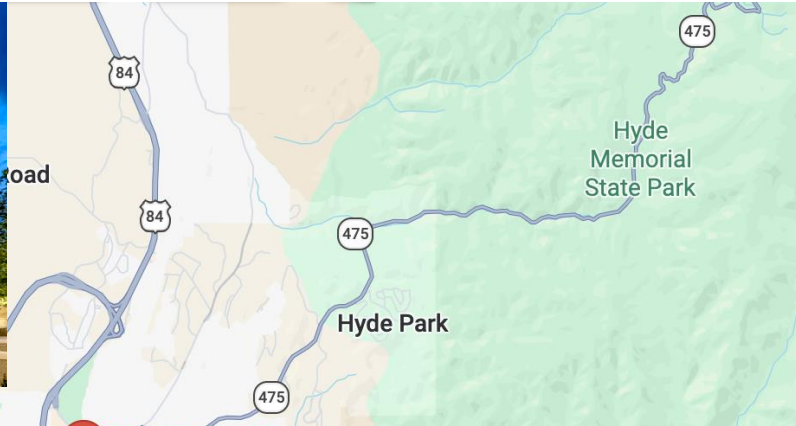
The elegant minimalism of Owen Smith's original design gave way to the banality of selfies, but still engaged with Fluxus's emphasis on the ordinary everyday elements of life. Our view was both collective and individualized through our visages.

What follows is a selfi-fied version of N.E.W.S. From Here Redux, N.E.W.S. from SFSF.

THE EVENT IN PROGRESS



THE SFSF MAP





North Selfie, East Selfie, West Selfie, South Selfie



North Selfie, East Selfie, West Selfie, South Selfie



North Selfie, East Selfie, West Selfie, South Selfie



North Selfie, East Selfie, West Selfie, South Selfie



North Selfie, East Selfie, West Selfie, South Selfie



North Selfie, East Selfie, West Selfie, South Selfie



An incomplete set of selfies; an extra double selfie



North Selfie, East Selfie, West Selfie, South Selfie



Triple Selfies; North Selfie, East Selfie, West Selfie, South Selfie



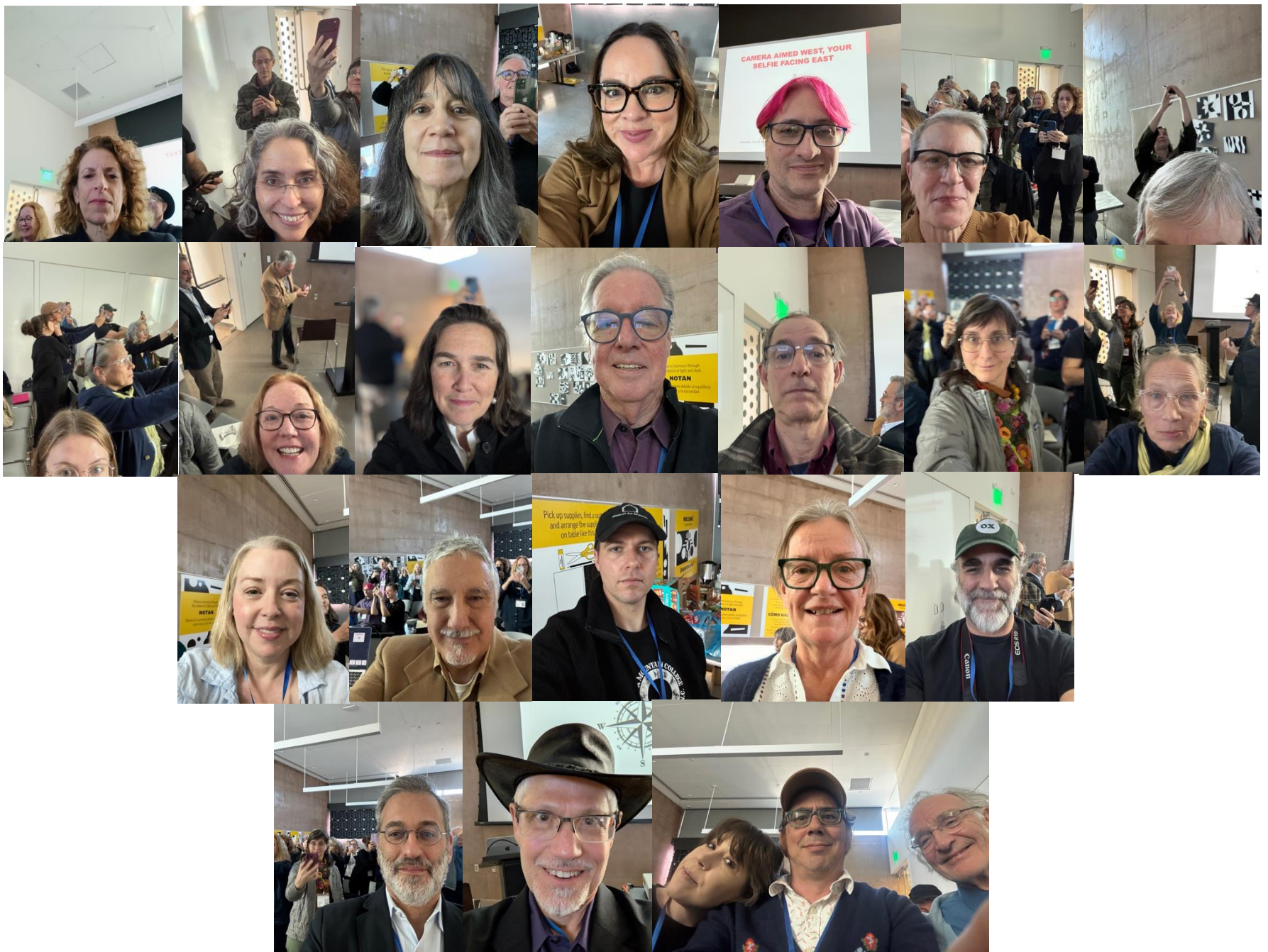
North Selfie, East Selfie, West Selfie, South Selfie



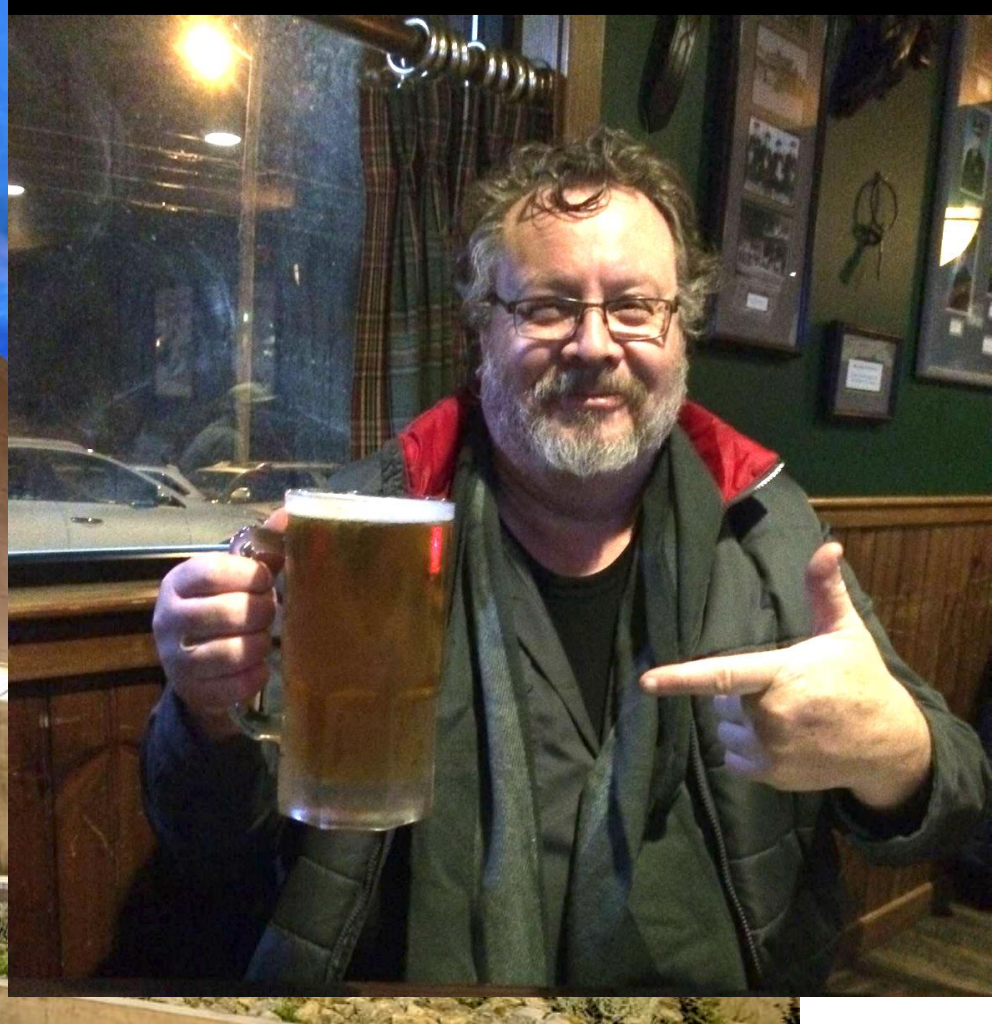
North Selfie, East Selfie, West Selfie, South Selfie



North Selfie, East Selfie, West Selfie, South Selfie



THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED AND TO OWEN F. SMITH



Left: Photo of Vladem Contemporary Art Museum, Santa Fe. DNC Architects. <https://dncarchitect.com/projects/vladem-contemporary/>. Accessed 1 Oct. 2026. Right: Photo of Owen F. Smith by Krista Molnar Smith. Received by Michael Filas, 5 July 2025.