

Ilya Kabakov, *School No. 6* (1993)

Russian Schoolhouse, Chinati Foundation
Marfa, TX

IN THE RUSSIAN SCHOOLHOUSE at the Chinati Foundation I was instructed not to step on the hay. It is part of the art and has been meticulously placed. My new girlfriend's foot was hovering over the hay and I reached out and stopped her, I repeated what the guard—a young intern, more like—had said. How quickly I became the art guard's minion, an enforcer of rules in which I did not believe! Instantly I hated myself. Instantly I plotted my revenge.

In the Russian Schoolhouse, next time you visit the Chinati Foundation, look closely at the hay: some of it was meticulously placed by the artist. Some of it may have been casually pulled from my pocket and allowed to float to the floor, unbeknownst to anyone. Anyone but us, that is.

—Jenn Shapland



Prairie Dogs (c. 2012)

Intersection of Cerrillos Rd and St. Francis Dr
Santa Fe, NM

AT THE INTERSECTION OF CERRILLOS and St. Francis, two of Santa Fe's main arteries, an interactive, three-dimensional installation brings together several local populations around the notion of play. Located both above- and underground, *Prairie Dogs* offers those stuck in traffic a chance to reflect on the hectic qualities of contemporary life through engagement with a lively society of prairie dogs and pigeons. The somehow charming rodents pop in and out of tunnels, standing tall and chasing their winged companions, occasionally pausing to snack on grasses, seeds, and insects. A functional ecosystem in its own right, *Prairie Dogs* demonstrates a thriving and viable way of life in the midst of northern New Mexico's high desert terrain. The installation, which might otherwise go unnoticed, is marked by a sign that reads "We are building an inclusive community." The artist remains anonymous, leaving interpretation of the work's gesture toward inclusivity and sustainable urbanization up to the viewer.

—Jenn Shapland

Jenn Shapland is a nonfiction writer living in New Mexico. Her work has appeared in *Tin House*, *The Lifted Brow*, *Electric Literature*, and elsewhere. She's currently writing a book-length manuscript called *The Autobiography of Carson McCullers*. She has a PhD in English from the University of Texas at Austin.