



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, April 23, 2020

Applications Open for Coachella Valley Artists for Desert X Portfolio Review

Artists in the Coachella Valley are invited to apply for the free, one-day online event on May 15.
Registration opens April 24 at 9AM.



Palm Springs, CA– Desert X announced today that it will host, for the first time, [free portfolio reviews](#) dedicated to artists living and working in the Coachella Valley.

Artists are invited to share a portfolio of their work with the Desert X curatorial team for a portfolio review that will take place on May 15, 2020 from 9am to 5pm. The day-long session, led by Desert X Co-curator César García-Alvarez with Artistic Director Neville Wakefield will be conducted online in coordination with current social distancing and shelter in place guidelines.

As part of the organization’s ongoing curatorial research and community outreach in preparation for its 2021 edition in the Coachella Valley, this new initiative, which follows news of the [Desert X Artist Relief Fund](#), will offer local artists the opportunity to present their work to recognized curators and to receive valuable advice, guidance and constructive critique about their practice. During this turbulent time of self-isolation, the program will also provide artists and the Desert X curatorial team the opportunity to meet for the first time, reconvene, and learn about each other through new virtual conversations about themes and ideas informing current work.

“In these strange times, we share in the anxieties and uncertainties that artists and cultural makers are experiencing,” said Desert X Co-curator César García-Alvarez. “We are also reflecting on the world that’s to come and want to make sure that the 2021 edition of Desert X will make a meaningful contribution to our collective recovery. That is why we are moving forward with our research and connecting with local stakeholders and organizations. This portfolio review, initially meant to be done in person, is now adapted online for our times, but its intention stays the same — to gain a deeper understanding of the vibrant community of artists that make the Coachella Valley the special place it is.”

Portfolios should include:

- Artist's statement (max. 300 words)
- Up to 10 slides representing the artist's practice and recent work

Limited 15-minute time slots are available. Artists are invited to sign up and pre-submit their portfolios by no later than **May 13, 2020** to secure a review.

The Desert X Portfolio Review is part of Desert X's on-going curatorial research and community outreach, and is not a selection process or open call for artists to participate in Desert X 2021.

Artists can apply online [here](#).

Image credit: Detail from Desert X installation view of Armando Lerma, *La Fiesta en el Desierto*, 2017, photo by Lance Gerber, courtesy of the artist and Desert X.



About Neville Wakefield

Neville Wakefield is a modern curator interested in exploring the ways in which art behaves outside of institutional contexts. This interest led him to co-found Elevation1049, a site-specific biennial in Gstaad, Switzerland, while his role as artistic director of Desert X has been instrumental in shaping the recurring exhibition that attracted over 400,000 visitors to the Coachella Valley region of Southern California. With Saudi curators Raneem Farsi and Aya Alireza he is co-curator of Desert X AIUla 2020, a site-specific exhibition of international artists, taking place in AIUla, northwest Saudi Arabia, home to the country's first UNESCO World Heritage Site,

Hegra. As senior curatorial advisor for PS1 MoMA and curator of Frieze Projects, he gained a reputation for challenging the conditions that shape art in both commercial and non-commercial contexts. He has worked extensively with international institutions, including the Schaulager Switzerland, where he curated the Matthew Barney retrospective *Prayer Sheet with the Wound and the Nail*.



About César García-Alvarez

César García-Alvarez is the Founder and current Executive & Artistic Director of The Mistake Room (TMR) — LA's international non-profit contemporary art space. At TMR García-Alvarez has organized projects and exhibitions with Oscar Murillo, Korakrit Arunanondchai, Ed Clark, Vivian Suter, Diana Thater, Mandy el-Sayegh, Thomas Hirschhorn, Henry Taylor, Christopher Myers, Eduardo Sarabia, Tuan Andrew Nguyen, and Serge Attukwei Clottey amongst others.

Most recently he organized *Where The Sea Remembers*, one of the first US exhibitions devoted solely to contemporary art from Vietnam. He is currently working on a group exhibition slated for Fall 2020 titled *Wetlines*, that will

survey the state of Latinx art in the United States. Prior to founding TMR García-Alvarez was Associate Director and Senior Curator of LAXART (2007-2012). He was one of the curators of Made in L.A. 2012, the first iteration of the Hammer Museum's LA Biennial, and from 2012-2013 served as the US Commissioner for the 13th International Cairo Biennial in Egypt.

García-Alvarez has organized a host of other notable exhibitions at institutions locally, nationally, and internationally including, amongst others the mid-career survey of Eduardo Sarabia at Instituto Cultural Cabañas, Guadalajara, Mexico (2014); the US premier of Egyptian artist Wael Shawky's Cabaret Crusades, Hammer Museum (2013); the re-staging of Mark di Suvero's *Artist Tower of Protest*, Pacific Standard Time Performance and Public Art Festival, Los Angeles (2012); and the mid-career survey of Tijuana-based artist Marcos Ramirez ERRE, Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil, Mexico City (with Kevin Power, 2011). García-Alvarez's recent books include monographs on artists Eduardo Sarabia and Brenna Youngblood. He is currently at work on an edited volume titled *The Anthology of Errors* which documents the history and work of TMR's first five years. He lives and works between Los Angeles, CA and Guadalajara, Mexico.

About Desert X

Desert X is produced by The Desert Biennial, a not-for-profit 501(C)3 charitable organization, founded in California to produce international contemporary art exhibitions that activate desert environments through site-specific installations by acclaimed artists from around the world. <https://www.desertx.org/>

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