



*** MEDIA ADVISORY ***

DESERT X 2025 ART INSTALLATIONS EXTENDED

**Installations By Artists Jose Dávila, Agnes Denes, Kimsooja, And Kapwani Kiwanga
Remain On View Alongside Works From Previous Exhibitions By Felipe Baeza, Jeffrey
Gibson, And Armando Lerma**

Free and Open To All



Agnes Denes, *The Living Pyramid* at Sunnylands Center & Gardens, photo by Lance Gerber

[PRESS KIT AND INSTALLATION IMAGES](#)

Palm Springs, Calif., – Desert X installations by four artists in the 2025 exhibition, which officially closed on May 11, will remain on view alongside works from prior editions, giving visitors a last chance to view the exhibition and experience Desert X over Memorial Day weekend and through the summer and early fall.

Now on view through and including June 1, 2025:

Agnes Denes, *The Living Pyramid*

Kimsooja *To Breathe – Coachella Valley*

Kapwani Kiwanga, *Plotting Rest*

Now on view through and including October 1, 2025:

Jose Dávila, *The act of being together*

Now on view indefinitely:

Felipe Baeza, *Finding Home in My Own Flesh* (Desert X 2021)

Jeffrey Gibson, *ALIVE!* (Desert X 2017)

Armando Lerma, *La fiesta en el desierto* (Desert X 2017)

Armando Lerma, *Visit Us in the Shape of Clouds* (Desert X 2019)

The exhibition, which is curated by Artistic Director **Neville Wakefield** and Co-Curator **Kaitlin Garcia-Maestas**, activates the desert landscape through installations by artists from around the globe who provide alternative ways of looking at a world increasingly encircled by the transformational effects of nature and humanity.

DESERT X 2025 WORKS NOW ON VIEW



Jose Dávila, *The act of being together*, photo by Lance Gerber

Through October 1: **Jose Dávila's** massive, monolithic marble blocks in ***The act of being together*** appear splintered across both time and space. Drawing on Robert Smithson's concept of site/nonsite dialectics, Dávila brings the stone blocks from a quarry a few hundred miles across the U.S.-Mexico border to the Coachella Valley, connecting the two locations by highlighting the void of their origin and the striking presence they create in a foreign landscape. To reach their new home, the blocks had to cross the physical border while also traversing a metaphorical border between the seen and the unseen. Moved by

the invisible forces of unknown histories, they evoke the archeological relics of ancient civilizations and the potential future of life beyond our own.

Through June 1: ***The Living Pyramid*** by pioneering artist and philosopher **Agnes Denes** is a monumental sculpture and environmental intervention on view at Sunnylands Center & Gardens. This first desert iteration of Denes’s pyramid structure is planted with vegetation that is native to the region. Its structure and appearance have transformed since its installation in November 2024 and will continue to evolve through the run of the exhibition according to the slow growth cycles of the desert environment. But it is the life-cycle of the plants - their growth, transformation and eventual death – that animates the pyramid, one of the most iconic forms of human civilization, and in so doing reminds us that within care and nurture can be found the spirit of our endurance.



Kimsooja, *To Breathe – Coachella Valley*, photo by Lance Gerber

Through June 1: ***To Breathe – Coachella Valley*** by **Kimsooja** invites an interaction with the essential elements of the desert: the texture of sand underfoot, the air we breathe, and the light around us. Drawing inspiration from *bottaris*, the fabric-encased bundles of belongings prominent in her work and in Korean culture, she describes this installation as a “bottari of light.” By wrapping the glass surface in a unique optical film, the physical architecture is transformed into a dynamic spectrum of light and color. The work reflects its counterpart work in the desert of AlUla, Saudi Arabia while also acknowledging the historical origins of the Light and Space movement on the West Coast of the **United States**.



Kapwani Kiwanga, *Plotting Rest*, photo by Lance Gerber

Through June 1: In the desert, where concepts of shelter, freedom, expansiveness, and enclosure have shaped midcentury dreams. **Kapwani Kiwanga's *Plotting Rest***, a pavilion-like structure reflects on the iconic midcentury design found in Palm Springs, signaling protection while offering none. Its roof, a lattice made of interlocking triangles, hovers overhead, allowing the elements to pass through and casting ever-changing shadows on the ground. Inspired by the quilting motif known as "flying geese," this pattern resonates with the contested narratives of the Underground Railroad, serving as an encrypted guidance system for those fleeing slavery toward the perceived freedom of the North. Kiwanga's sculpture fosters contemplation and hope while reminding us that history is marked by successive migrations.

Download the Desert X app to visit and learn more about the artists and their works and to get directions to their sites across the Coachella Valley.

EXPERIENCE DESERT X

Hours and Locations

Exhibition opening hours are from sunrise to sunset, **except for Sunnylands Center & Gardens, Wednesday – Sunday: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm.** Visitors are encouraged to check details for each artist's work at desertx.org. Free Admission

The **Desert X 2025 map** of artist installations can be found online at desertx.org and via the Desert X app.

Leave No Trace

Desert X encourages visitors to follow official *Leave No Trace* guidelines. Plan ahead and prepare, walk on designated paths, dispose of waste properly, leave what you find, respect wildlife, don't smoke, and be considerate of other visitors.

Desert X Merchandise

Windmill City Super # 1. 463 North Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs
Stop by to browse and buy Desert X merchandise made with Windmill City Printing and other local companies. Visit super-number-one.com for hours.

For further information go to desertx.org

Desert X is funded by its board of directors and an international group of individual donors, foundations, and sponsors.

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Acknowledgement of Native Land

We acknowledge the Cahuilla People as the original stewards of the land on which Desert X takes place. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work with the indigenous people in this place. We pay our respect to the Cahuilla People, past, present and emerging, who have been here since time immemorial.

Desert X

Desert X is produced by The Desert Biennial, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, conceived to produce recurring international contemporary art exhibitions that activate desert locations through site-specific installations by acclaimed international artists. Its guiding principles include presenting public exhibitions of art that respond meaningfully to the conditions of desert locations, the environment and the indigenous communities; promoting cultural exchange and education programs that foster dialogue and understanding among cultures and communities about shared artistic, historical, and societal issues; and providing an accessible platform for artists from around the world to address ecological, cultural, spiritual and other existential themes. Founded on the principles of the Land Art movement of the late '60s and early '70s, when artists sought to create work outside of the confines of institutional walls, Desert X has, since its inception in 2017, explored new configurations of site-responsive work by artists from around the world creating a new paradigm for the presentation and experience of art that is both unrivaled and accessible to all.

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