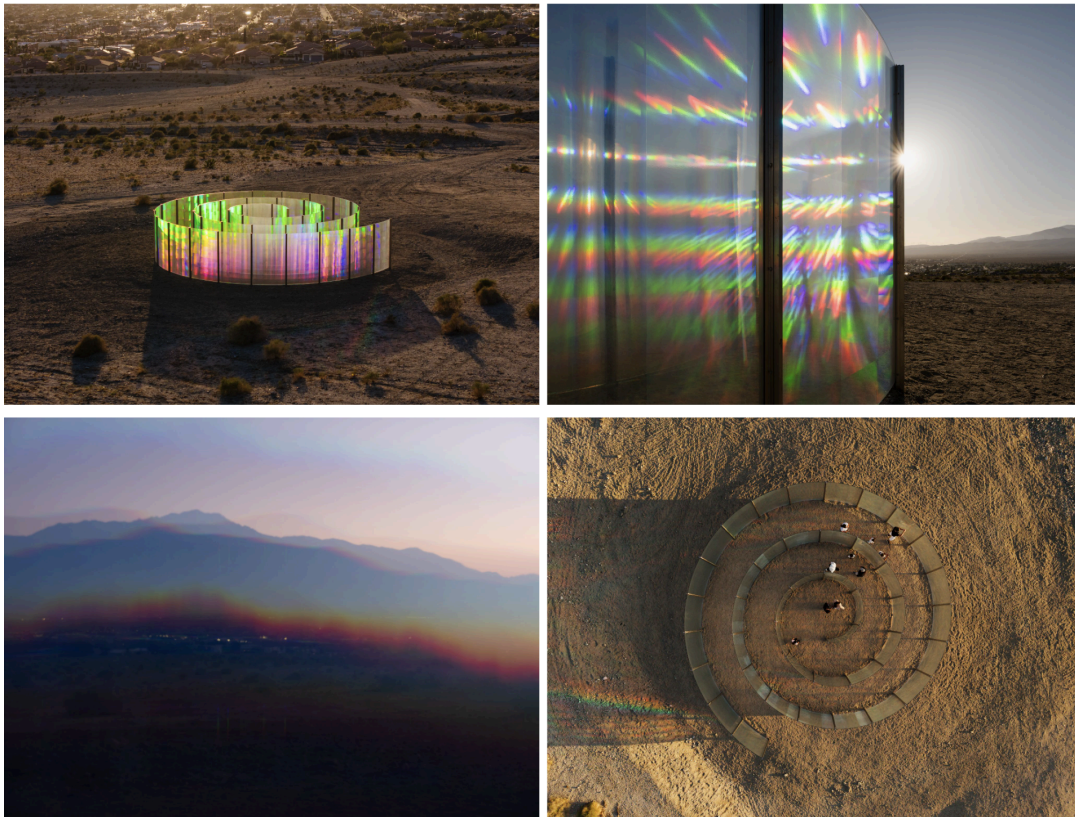




**DESERT X 2025 UNVEILS NEWLY-COMMISSIONED WORKS BY  
KIMSOOJA AND KAPWANI KIWANGA**

**PUBLIC PROGRAMMING ON MARCH 29 AND 30 LED BY ARTISTS AND  
CURATORS ADDRESSES COLLECTIVE HEALING, HOPE, AND SUSTAINABLE  
LAND-BASED FUTURES**

**THE EXHIBITION IS NOW ON VIEW THROUGH MAY 11, 2025**



**[PRESS KIT AND INSTALLATION IMAGES](#)**

Palm Springs, Calif., March 26, 2025 – Desert X, the recurring site-specific, international art exhibition, has unveiled large-scale installations by artists **Kimsooja** and **Kapwani Kiwanga** as part of the organization's fifth edition now on view, free and open to all, at sites across the Coachella Valley, California through May 11, 2025.

Completing the exhibition of eleven artists from Asia, Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East, ***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, sited in Desert Hot Springs, 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 U.S.

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, located by the Palm Springs Visitor Center, fosters contemplation and hope while reminding us that history is marked by successive migrations.



Curated by Artistic Director **Neville Wakefield** and Co-curator **Kaitlin Garcia-Maestas**, the exhibition activates the desert landscape through works by artists who provide us with alternative ways of looking at a world increasingly encircled by the transformational effects of nature and humanity. Adopting both material, architectural forms and the elusive and the immaterial to delve into ideas of temporality and nonlinear narratives of desert time, the works invite us to glean wisdom from the desert's vast knowledge. Participating artists who also include **Sanford Biggers, Jose Dávila, Agnes Denes, Raphael Hefti, Sarah Meyohas, Ronald Rael, Alison Saar, and Muhannad Shono** form a space where ancestral wisdom intertwines and collides with contemporary visions for our collective future. Architecture, the most visible evidence of our transformative presence, is the adopted form of many of the projects – both pavilion-like and prosaic – while immateriality and elusive forms of wind and light signal the transformative effects, not just of humans, but of nature upon the landscape.

**Descriptions, installation images and video of the participating artists' works are available [HERE](#).**

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## **PUBLIC PROGRAMMING | MARCH 29 AND 30, 2025**

On March 29 and 30, 2025 join Desert X artists and curators for a series of conversations around topics of collective healing, hope, and sustainable land-based futures.

Programs are free but space is limited. Please RSVP for each of the programs below.

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025**

***Broken Boxes Podcast: Cannupa Hanska Luger and Gerald Clarke***  
**Join Cannupa Hanska Luger and Gerald Clarke in conversation with Co-curator Kaitlin Garcia-Maestas for a live Broken Boxes Podcast recording.**

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Thompson Palm Springs  
414 N Palm Canyon Dr  
Palm Springs

**[RSVP to Cannupa Hanska Luger and Gerald Clarke](#)**

### **SUNDAY MARCH 30, 2025**

#### **Walk and Talk: Part 1**

**A self-driving tour of Alison Saar, Jose Dávila, and Sanford Bigger's installations will take place with special guests and team. Arrive early for your morning coffee by Mentosa, service from 8:00 – 10:00 AM.**

9:30 – 11:30 AM

Various locations

\*\*Download the Desert X app for the installation map

### [RSVP to Walk & Talk: Part 1](#)

#### **Sanford Biggers and Alison Saar in Conversation**

**Join us for a conversation with Sanford Biggers and Alison Saar moderated by Co-curator Kaitlin Garcia-Maestas about their works at Desert X 2025**

12:30 – 1:30 PM

James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center

480 W Tramview Rd

Palm Springs

### [RSVP to Sanford Biggers and Alison Saar](#)

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## **EXPERIENCE THE EXHIBITION**

### **Exhibition Dates**

**March 8–May 11, 2025**

### **Opening Hours and Locations**

Exhibition opening hours are generally from sunrise to sunset, however, hours and access to installations may vary. Visitors are encouraged to check details for each artist's work at

[desertx.org](https://desertx.org). **Free Admission**

### **Desert X Hub at Thompson Palm Springs**

414 N. Palm Canyon Dr.

Fri. 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Sat. & Sun. 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Stop by to pick up your Desert X 2025 guide, map of artist installations and visitor information.

The **Desert X 2025 map** of artist installations can be found online at [desertx.org](https://desertx.org) and via the **Desert X 2025 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.

### **Guided and Docent-led tours**

Desert X docents are at most sites every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

### **Desert X Merchandise**

Windmill City Super # 1. 463 North Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs

Stop by to browse and buy Desert X merchandise Designed by Carlton DeWoody and made with Windmill City Printing. Visit [super-number-one.com](http://super-number-one.com) for hours.

**For further information and to plan your visit, go to [desertx.org](http://desertx.org)**

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Image block one left to right, top to bottom: Desert X 2025 installation view of Kimsooja, *To Breathe – Coachella Valley*, photo by Lance Gerber, courtesy Desert X.

Image block two left to right, top to bottom: Desert X 2025 installation view of Kapwani Kiwanga, *Plotting Rest*, photo by Lance Gerber, © 2025 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris. Courtesy Desert X.

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

Sponsored by 1800® Tequila, the world's most awarded tequila, and a historic Mexican brand that prioritizes taste through its superior liquid quality and its decades-long collaborations with some of the world's most culturally relevant artists.

Additional support from Jordan Schnitzer and the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, Amazon, and Design Within Reach.

Media Partners: Artnet, ArtReview, C Magazine, Canvas Magazine, Cultured Magazine, *frieze* Magazine, Here Media, KGAY Palm Springs, GayDesertGuide and 103.1 MeTV FM, LocaliQ, part of The Desert Sun and Desert Magazine, Palm Springs Life Magazine, Terremoto, and Visit Greater Palm Springs.

### **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.

### **Communications and Media Relations**

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### **Follow Desert X**

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**Vimeo:** [vimeo.com/desertx](https://vimeo.com/desertx)

Follow on social media with #DesertX #DX25

[Desertx.org](https://www.desertx.org)

**### ENDS ###**