

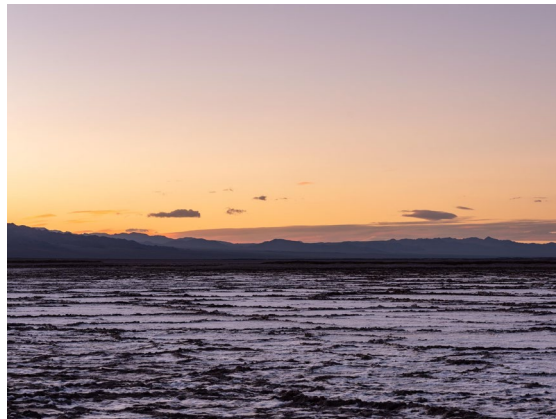
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, January 28, 2019



**A SITE-SPECIFIC, INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART
EXHIBITION FOR THE CALIFORNIA DESERT**

ANNOUNCES PARTICIPATING ARTISTS AND OPENING EVENT SCHEDULE

OPENS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9–SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019



Palm Springs, Calif., – [Desert X](#), one of the most anticipated exhibitions of the year, will open its second edition on February 9–April 21, 2019.

Free and open to the public, the recurring international contemporary art exhibition is curated by returning Artistic Director Neville Wakefield and 2019 Co-Curators Amanda Hunt and Matthew Schum, and will activate the desert landscape through nineteen site-specific installations and performances by some of today's most recognized international contemporary artists, including:

Iván Argote, Steve Badgett & Chris Taylor, Nancy Baker Cahill, Cecilia Bengolea, Pia Camil, John Gerrard, Julian Hoeber, Jenny Holzer, Iman Issa, Mary Kelly, Armando Lerma, Eric N. Mack, Cinthia Marcelle, Postcommodity, Cara Romero, Sterling Ruby, Kathleen Ryan, Gary Simmons and Superflex.

The exhibition will explore ideas of site-specificity, the frame of post-institutional art and the interactive possibilities that attend it. Diversifying the range of media presented in 2017, Desert X 2019 will add film projects and evolving, process-driven works to its presentation, which will span fifty miles across the Coachella Valley and beyond, expanding to the south to explore the ecological bellwether of the Salton Sea, and further across the border into Mexico.

Norma Jeane's *ShyBot*, who made her first appearance as part of the inaugural 2017 Desert X, lost her way soon after release, and was re-discovered almost intact more than a year later by a duly rewarded local resident, is to be re-released.

“It’s been an honor to be a part of the continued expansion of Desert X, adding co-curators Amanda Hunt and Matthew Schum to the team, reaching south to the Salton Sea and beyond into Mexico and embracing a range of ecological, environmental and social issues that have been driving conversations about our role in the anthropocene,” said Artistic Director Neville Wakefield.

Descriptions of the 2019 artists’ projects, a site map, details of exhibition-related programming and Parallel Programs will be posted on desertx.org on February 9.

Desert X 2017 garnered international critical and popular acclaim for an exhibition of site-specific artworks and installation projects by some of today’s most recognized contemporary artists, including Doug Aitken, Lita Albuquerque, Jennifer Bolande, Will Boone, Claudia Comte, Jeffrey Gibson, Sherin Guirguis, Norma Jeane, Glenn Kaino, Gabriel Kuri, Armando Lerma, Richard Prince, Rob Pruitt, Julião Sarmiento, Phillip K. Smith III and Tavares Strachan. It attracted an audience of more than 200,000 diverse and multi-generational, local and international visitors over nine weeks. The exhibition engaged millions across social and digital media channels and was the recipient of multiple awards for its extensive education and community programs and partnerships, which enrolled hundreds of local and national volunteers, docents, educators, and students.

TOUR THE EXHIBITION

Desert X Program Guide and Map

A special Desert X printed program and map of the 2019 installations will be produced by Palm Springs Life Magazine and will be available for the opening of the exhibition on February 9, and will be included in the March 2019 issue of the magazine. Visitors are also encouraged to visit desertx.org for current information, directions and hours.

Desert X Hubs

From February 9 through April 21, 2019, visitors can pick up a map, browse information, purchase the newly-released “*Desert X 2017*” catalog and view *Encyclopedia (Desert X Edition)*, a new artificial intelligence (AI), created by **Johannes Heldén** in collaboration with **Håkan Jonson**.

The three Desert X Hubs are located across the valley at the following addresses:

Indio
82713 Miles Avenue
Indio, CA 92201

Palm Desert
73660 El Paseo
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Palm Springs
Ace Hotel & Swim Club
701 E Palm Canyon Drive,
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Bus Tours

Tickets for public bus tours at \$75.00 are available every Saturday and Sunday at 9:00am and at 2:00pm. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

DESERT X OPENING EVENT SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 8

Desert X Grand Opening Party

5:00pm-7:30pm - Desert X Grand Opening Party.

Tickets \$125 per person for those who are not donors to Desert X.

Contact dxgrandopening@lynwinter.com to purchase tickets by Monday, February 4, 2019.

FEBRUARY 9

Opening Day

Art installations open and admission free to all. For locations and information, visit desertx.org.

MARCH 1-3

DESERT X SYMPOSIUM

Desert, Why?

Annenberg Theater at Palm Springs Art Museum and at Desert X artists' sites.

Desert X and Palm Springs Art Museum will present a three-day celebration of art and the environment from March 1–3, 2019. A series of performances, panels, tours and receptions will highlight both the exhibition *Unsettled*, currently on view at Palm Springs Art Museum, and Desert X 2019. Sunnylands Center & Gardens, a location of one of the Desert X art installations, will host a reception. The Desert Sun and Gannett Foundation have funded part of the weekend, during which there will be a panel at the Salton Sea on the impending climate crisis.

DESERT X CATALOG

New in 2019 and coinciding with the opening of the exhibition is the launch of *Desert X 2017*, a 240-page, full color volume, exploring the concept and ideas around Desert X through interviews with the sixteen artists who participated in the inaugural exhibition. Published by PPP Editions, the book includes a foreword by Ed Ruscha, essays by Bill Fox, Holly Willis and Neville Wakefield, editorial coordination by Steven Biller and is edited by Andrew Roth and Neville Wakefield. Priced at \$45.00 *Desert X 2017* can be purchased online at desertx.org and at Desert X hubs beginning February 9.

DESERT X PODCAST

A new, first-time Desert X podcast series will explore the environmental, ecological and social themes in the 2019 Desert X exhibition. Acclaimed design journalist Frances Anderton will talk with artists and curators that are part of Desert X, and co-produce and edit the series with Avishay Artsy. Anderton hosts KCRW's weekly radio show *DnA: Design and Architecture*; Artsy produces it. The Desert X podcast will be available, from the commencement of the exhibition, on iTunes, other podcast apps and at desertx.org. The series is presented by Lead Sponsor PROJECTEVELOZCITY, which is creating electric vehicles that will be available by subscription. The series is intended to be a modern take on a mobile audio tour to educate, inspire and entertain visitors as they drive and experience Desert X 2019.

Plan Your Visit

New partnerships with more than twenty-five local organizations, hotels and purveyors across the Coachella Valley will offer an array of special discounts to Desert X visitors. For further information and to plan your visit: <https://www.desertx.org/plan-your-visit/>

Desert X is funded by its board of directors, an extraordinary group of donors and municipalities, and by Project Evelozcity, its lead sponsor.

Media Partners: Art in America, artnet, ARTnews, *frieze* magazine, Greater Palm Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau, Here TV, Palm Springs Life Magazine and The Desert Sun part of the USA Today Network.

A full list of donors, sponsors and partners can be found [here](#).

Image credit: Desert view of the Salton Sea, photo by Lance Gerber, courtesy Desert X.

ABOUT PROJECT EVELOZCITY

Project Evelozcity is a Los Angeles-based electric vehicle (EV) and mobility services company that is creating subscription-based mobility for urban needs. The boutique Californian EV brand plans to launch its first vehicle in 2021 in smart cities, first in the U.S., and in China to follow. For more information, please visit <https://evelozcity.com> or follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)

ABOUT DESERT X

Desert X is produced by Desert Biennial, a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 2015. Its mission is to bring the finest international artists to the Coachella Valley to create art, engage viewers, and focus attention on the Valley's environment — its natural wonders as well as socio-political-economic issues that make it vibrant, curious, and exciting, while also focusing attention on the creative energy of the participating artists and their work.

Desert X Artistic Director

Neville Wakefield records, documents and shapes the culture he lives in. As a creative director, writer, curator and commentator on contemporary art and culture, he combines objects, images and action and thought into provocative syntheses. He is the co-founder of *Destricted*, a series of films that address the issue of sexuality in art, has served as creative director for *Tar* magazine, *Playboy's* special projects / A-Z edition as well as frequently collaborating with brands including Cartier, Nike and Supreme for whom he commissions the much coveted artists decks. 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 institutions both here and abroad including the Schaulager Switzerland where he curated the ground-breaking Matthew Barney retrospective: 'Prayer Sheet with the Wound and the Nail.' His interest in the behavior of art outside of institutional walls has led him to co-found *Elevation1049* a site-specific biennial in Gstaad, Switzerland currently in its third edition. His role as artistic director of Desert X has been instrumental in shaping the recurring exhibition that attracted over 200,000 visitors to the Coachella Valley in Southern California for its first edition in 2017.

Desert X 2019 Co-Curators

Amanda Hunt, M.A., is co-curator of Desert X 2019. She is also Director of Education & Public Programs at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Past appointments include Associate Curator at The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, and Curator at LA><ART, Los Angeles, where she helped coordinate the 2012 Pacific Standard Time Performance and Public Art Festival for The Getty Research Institute, and *Made in L.A. 2012*, the Hammer Museum's first Los Angeles biennial. At the Studio Museum, Hunt produced exhibitions including *A Constellation*, *Black Cowboy*, and in 2016 commissioned in Harlem: Kevin Beasley, Simone Leigh, Kori Newkirk, Rudy Shepherd, a public sculpture initiative (in partnership with the New York City Parks Department). In 2014, Hunt was the first non-regional curator of the Portland Biennial of Contemporary Art.

Matthew Schum, Ph.D, is a writer and a curator based in Los Angeles. He is currently a lecturer in the Art Department at Cal State Long Beach and has taught art history at the University of California San Diego, the Willem de Kooning Academy, Otis College of Art, NYU Steinhardt, and Cal State Bakersfield. Institutional exhibition work includes MoMA, the Walker Art Center and the Vancouver Art Gallery. From 2012 to 2015 he served as Curator at LAXART. Curatorial residencies include SALT, Istanbul, Cura, Bodrum, and Forest Island, Mammoth Lakes. He has edited several artist catalogs, including a monograph for filmmaker-artist Mark Boulos (2017, Hatje Cantz), and written on contemporary art for *Aperture*, *Artforum*, *Flash Art*, *Mousse*, *Witte de With Review* and *X-TRA*.

To get involved and support Desert X as a benefactor or sponsor, please contact jenny@desertx.org.
For more information and upcoming events, visit desertx.org.

MEDIA AND VIP RELATIONS

Lyn Winter, Inc.

lyn@lynwinter.com

[@lynwinter](#)

MEDIA REQUESTS AND ACCREDITATION FOR FEB 7 AND 8 MEDIA PREVIEWS

Contact: Livia Mandoul, livia@lynwinter.com

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Facebook: [Facebook.com/DesertX/](#)

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FOLLOW DESERT X 2019 ARTISTS

Iván Argote

Instagram: [@ivan_argote](#)

Steve Badgett & Chris Taylor

Twitter: [@land_arts](#)

Instagram: [@land_arts](#)

Nancy Baker Cahill

Instagram: [@nancybakercahill](#), [@4thwallapp](#)

Twitter: [@4thwallapp](#)

Cecilia Bengolea

Instagram: [@ceciliabengolea](#)

Pia Camil

Instagram: [@piacamil](#)

John Gerrard

Instagram: [@johngerrard.inst](#)

Twitter: [@jegerrard](#)

Johannes Heldén

Instagram: [@astroecology](#)

Julian Hoeber

Instagram: [@julianhoeber](#)

Twitter: [@julianhoeber](#)

Jenny Holzer

Instagram: [@jennyholzerstudio](#)

Twitter: [@jennyholzer](#)

Iman Issa

[#imanissa](#)

Norma Jeane

Facebook: [norma.j.baker.9](#)

Instagram: [@jeane4141](#)

Twitter: [@normanowhere](#)

Håkan Jonson

Instagram: [@hakanjonson](#)

Mary Kelly

[#marykelly](#)

Armando Lerma

Instagram: [@chied_sign_painting](#)

Eric N. Mack

Instagram: [@ernatmack](#)

Cinthia Marcelle

[#cinthiamarcelle](#)

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Facebook: [Postcommodity](#)

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Instagram: [@cararomerophotography](#)

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