

MEDIA PREVIEW
February 22 & 23, 2017
Palm Springs, CA
For Media Accreditation
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**A SITE-SPECIFIC, INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART
EXHIBITION FOR THE CALIFORNIA DESERT**

ANNOUNCES

**ROBUST EDUCATION AND PARALLEL PROGRAMS;
SUPPORT OF DESERT CITIES INDIO, PALM DESERT, PALM SPRINGS AND
RANCHO MIRAGE**

**PROGRAM COMMENCES NOVEMBER 30 WITH CONVERSATION AT THE HAMMER
MUSEUM LED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR NEVILLE WAKEFIELD WITH ARTISTS
WILL BOONE, GLENN KAINO, SHERIN GUIRGUIS AND TAVARES STRACHAN**

EXHIBITION OPENS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 - SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

(Palm Springs, Calif., November, 28, 2016) - *Desert X* announced today a robust series of education and parallel programs that will coincide with the inaugural site-specific contemporary art exhibition opening February 25 to April 30, 2017 throughout the Coachella Valley.

Four Riverside County cities - Indio, Palm Desert, Palm Springs and Rancho Mirage - recently confirmed generous support for the exhibition, which promises to deliver diverse and high-level public arts and cultural activities alongside education-driven efforts.

Featuring commissioned artworks and installation projects by some of today's most recognized international, contemporary artists, *Desert X* will activate designated sites from Palm Springs to the Salton Sea. Planned education programs will explore the production, presentation and interpretation of experiential artworks created for spaces outside of traditional institutional boundaries and the challenges and inspiration offered by the desert. Curated by Artistic Director Neville Wakefield, *Desert X*'s founding mission is to engage the specificity of the Coachella Valley's physical and social landscapes through artworks by acclaimed artists. Broadening an

international audience for the area's rich cultural legacy, the exhibition will also shine a spotlight on the visual and performing arts of the area.

Initiating the education program this month, the **Hammer Museum** will present ***Conversations: Desert X Preview*** at the **Billy Wilder Theater**, on **Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 7:30 pm**. *Desert X* Artistic Director Neville Wakefield and Executive Director Elizabeta Betinski will be joined by participating artists Will Boone, Glenn Kaino, Sherin Guirguis, and Tavares Strachan to discuss their work and the cultural and philosophical issues that make the Coachella Valley a vibrant and exciting backdrop for the desert-wide exhibition. Admission is free. Tickets are required and available at the Hammer Box Office one hour before the program and are limited to one per person on a first come, first served basis following member ticketing.
<https://hammer.ucla.edu/programs-events/2016/11/desert-x-preview/>

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Desert X education initiatives are diverse and in addition to panels such as the one at the Hammer, include programs for high schools, colleges, and adults in the greater Palm Springs area. Among the education program highlights, are a daylong symposium in collaboration with the Palm Springs Art Museum and a documentary videography program for high school students led by DIGICOM. Other programs include docent-led tours, special lectures, educational maps, information packages, and teacher and student passes to the symposium.

Desert X Symposium

Desert Constellations: Art and Mythologies

Annenberg Theatre at Palm Springs Museum

Saturday, March 11, 2017, Registration at 8:30 am

Desert Constellations: Art and Mythologies is organized by *Desert X* Vice President, Steven Nash, in collaboration with Daniell Cornell, The Donna and Cargill MacMillan Jr., Director of Art at the Palm Springs Art Museum. The day-long symposium is a vehicle to contextualize the work of participating artists culturally and sociologically and will include a keynote address by land art expert William L. Fox, Director of the Center for Art + Environment at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno.

Featured panelists will discuss the history of desert land art, the influence of the environment on the work of artists in the high desert region, contemporary desert photography, desert architecture, and artist activists who extend their practices into the community through social processes. Speakers will include, Neville Wakefield and artists participating in *Desert X*; Leo Marmol, Managing Principal of the architectural firm Marmol Radziner; photographer John Divola; Daniell Cornell; Danielle Segura, Director of Mojave Desert Land Trust; architectural designer Stephanie Smith; and artists Kim Stringfellow and Rebecca Lowry. Well-known Los Angeles-based curator Yael Lipschutz, an expert on Noah Purifoy and a member of the *Desert X* board, will moderate one of the panels.

DIGICOM Collaboration

Desert X program partner DIGICOM trains K-12 teachers and students to make videos and develop digital storytelling. DIGICOM will work through the semester with several teams of students as they create short video documentaries and media pieces relating to the artists and installations featured in *Desert X*. Creating these videos will afford students the opportunity to meet and interview the participating artists, learn about the various projects, and connect with the cultural community.

PARALLEL PROGRAMS

Desert X will be amplified by an extensive series of parallel programs taking place throughout the run of the exhibition. Among these will be exhibitions, performances, open studios, and special projects hosted by local artists, organizations, and institutions. Those confirmed to date include the **Palm Springs Museum of Art**, **BoxoPROJECTS: Joshua Treenial 2017**, **Date Farmers: Coachella Walls**, **Epicenter Projects**, **High Desert Test Sites**, **Andrea Zittel's AZ-West**, **Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency (JHTAR)**, **Walter N. Marks Center for the Arts at College of the Desert**, and the **Noah Purifoy Foundation**.

Desert X is funded by its board of directors, philanthropists well-known to the desert community and its Founding Members. It has received generous support from cities, organizations and corporate entities in the region. *Desert X* program partners include Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, DIGICOM, Palm Springs Art Museum, Sunnylands Center & Gardens, and Modernism Week. Its media sponsor is *Palm Springs Life* and founding hotel sponsor is Triada Palm Springs Hotel, an Autograph Collection Hotel.

To get involved and support *Desert X* as a Founding Member, benefactor, or sponsor please contact Ben Hartley at ben@desertx.org

ABOUT DESERT X

Desert X was founded in 2015 as a not-for-profit charitable organization under the name Desert Biennial to develop, organize and produce a major, international, contemporary art exhibition featuring site-specific installations in selected venues throughout the Coachella Valley and surrounding area. The themes and locations of the exhibition will engage surrounding communities, other Valley organizations, visitors, and students through works that respond to environmental, social and cultural conditions specific to the Valley, while also focusing attention on the creative energy of the participating artists and their work.

www.desertx.org

MEDIA RELATIONS

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