



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***DESERT X 2021—THE FILM* IN COMPETITION AT RIVIERA INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL**

SCREENINGS ON MAY 11 AND MAY 13, 2022



**Film Provides Extraordinary Access into the Studios of Renowned Artists
Confronting Urgent Socio-Political and Environmental Themes for Desert X 2021
Exhibition**

Palm Springs, Calif., May 5, 2022—Desert X, the recurring site-specific, international art exhibition, announced today that the documentary film, *Desert X 2021—The Film* will screen in competition in the Riviera International Film Festival taking place May 10-15, 2022 in Sestri Levante, Italy. The film, part of the Festival's Official Selection, will be shown on May 11 and 13.

Desert X 2021–The Film, directed by **Dylan Robertson** and produced by **Zoe Lukov**, will be presented in the Festival's documentary section dedicated to films that address themes and ideas surrounding the environment. The focus on documentary films that tackle society's social and environmental issues is a commitment made by RIFF Founder, President **Stefano Gallini Durante** and Executive Director **Vito D'Onghia**, that is supported by awareness campaigns and initiatives in tandem with activists including **Martina Colombari**, **Nicolò Govoni** and **Sea Shepherd**.

Desert X 2021–The Film, which documents the creation of the 2021 exhibition, was released in October 2021 at premiere screenings in California at the Rancho Mirage Amphitheater, Rancho Mirage and at the Getty Center, Los Angeles. It was part of the Official Selection for the 33rd Palm Springs International Film Festival (PSIFF) in 2022 and the Official Selection for the American Documentary and Animation Film Festival (AMDOC) in March of this year.



Taking viewers behind the scenes of the 2021 exhibition curated by Desert X Artistic Director **Neville Wakefield** and Co-curator **César García-Alvarez**, the film offers atypical insight into the process and studios of 12 participating artists from eight countries who were invited to explore the Coachella Valley, CA desert through newly-commissioned art works. The artists were charged to investigate the desert as both a place and idea. It is at once a record of the tumult of the pandemic through the eyes and voices of well-known artists and a timely piece that poses urgent questions about the past while imagining the possibilities of a shared future.

Zoe Lukov, an independent curator and the producer of the film as well as a founding member of the Desert X Board of Directors explained, “While we initially thought the film might serve as a document of the exhibition at a time when traveling for art was limited, it ultimately proved to be a way to make art accessible which isn’t always possible within the walls of an institution. We had the opportunity to go into the artists studios and hear directly about their processes and practices in their words, and then to go deeper, gaining an understanding of the issues addressed by each artists’ respective works and ultimately to realize our commonalities despite geographic and/or socio-political divides.”

“We are honored that the film has been chosen to be part of the Festival’s Official Selection and will be recognized in a global context alongside such prestigious filmmakers,” said Desert X President **Susan Davis**. “The work being done by the participating artists and the ideas and conversations provoked by the exhibition and the film are both urgent and vital. This recognition will expand that dialogue to a wider, international audience.”



Desert X 2021–The Film takes us inside the studios of artists from around the world, who through their creations for Desert X, explore the current socio-political climate, speaking directly to the Native American Land Back movement, climate change and water rights, histories of feminism and the urgent issues facing Black lives.

Artists featured in the film include:

Zahrah Alghamdi (born 1977, Al Bahah, Saudi Arabia, based in Jeddah)

Ghada Amer (born 1963, Cairo, Egypt, based in New York)

Felipe Baeza (born 1987, Guanajuato, Mexico, based in New York)

Serge Attukwei Clottey (born 1985, Accra, Ghana, based in Accra)

Nicholas Galanin (born 1979, Sitka, Alaska, US, based in Sitka)

Alicja Kwade (born 1979, Katowice, Poland, based in Berlin)

Oscar Murillo (born 1986, Valle del Cauca, Colombia, based in various locations)

Christopher Myers (born 1974, New York, US, based in New York)

Eduardo Sarabia (born 1976, Los Angeles, US, based in Guadalajara, Mexico)

Xaviera Simmons (born 1974, New York, US, based in New York)

Kim Stringfellow (born 1963, San Mateo, CA, US, based in Joshua Tree)

Vivian Suter (born 1949, Buenos Aires, Argentina, based in Panajachel, Guatemala).



Desert X 2021–The Film

USA / 56 minutes

Directed by Dylan Robertson and produced by Zoe Lukov for Desert X.

The Executive Producer is Richard Mille.

Desert X 2021 is part of KCET's original series **ARTBOUND**.

Desert X is funded by its board of directors and an extraordinary group of individuals, foundations and sponsors.

Desert X 2021 was presented by Richard Mille.

EDITORS' NOTES

About 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.

Desert X has drawn an audience of more than 1.25 million to its three site-specific exhibitions in the Coachella Valley. Rooted in the Land Art tradition, the exhibitions in 2017, 2019, and 2021 received critical acclaim and worldwide attention. Desert X 2023 will open March 4, 2023 at sites across the Coachella Valley.

Image credits: Desert X installation view of Alicja Kwade, *ParaPivot (sempiternal clouds)*, 2021; Desert X 2021 artist performance at Serge Attukwei Clottey, *The Wishing Well*, 2021; The Jingle Dress Project performance at Desert X installation Nicholas Galanin, *Never Forget*, 2021. All photography by Lance Gerber, courtesy the artist and Desert X.

Follow Desert X

Instagram: [@_desertx](#) Facebook.com/DesertX/
#DesertX
Desertx.org

Follow Riviera International Film Festival

Instagram: [@rivierainternationalfilmfest](#)
Twitter: [@filmriviera](#)
Facebook: [@rivierainternationalfilmfestival](#)
#RIFF2022
rivierafilm.org

Communications & Media Relations

Lyn Winter, Inc., desertx@lynwinter.com

PRESS KIT AND IMAGES

ENDS