

# Desert Sun.

ARTS

## Desert X 2025: Here's your first look at the public artworks featured in the new exhibit

Brian Blueskye, Ema Sasic, Niki Kottmann Palm Springs Desert Sun

There were several remarks made at the Desert X 2025 Exhibition Preview on Friday, but none hit home quite like Supervisor V. Manuel Perez's.

"No matter who you are or where you live in the Coachella Valley ... wherever you're coming from, you have access," Perez said of the Desert X installations, which are all free to view. "A lot of folks, I'll tell you — they live in Thermal, North Shore, Thousand Palms, Sky Valley, Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs — don't have the money to go to a real nice museum. But you know what? They're able to go to Desert X."

The public is able to view nine Desert X installations beginning Saturday, March 8, and after a few more open next week, all 11 will be on display through May 11. The map will be released on Saturday on Desert X's website, app and social media pages.

Here's your first look at all the 2025 Desert X exhibits throughout the Coachella Valley.

## 'Unsui' ('Mirror')

**Artist:** Sanford Biggers

**Location:** James O. Jesse Desert  
Highland Unity Center, 480 W.  
Tramview Road, Palm Springs

New York City-based interdisciplinary artist Sanford Biggers wants you to look at the two tall pole structures — with sparkling clouds atop them — that make up "Unsui" and think about place and time. "'Unsui (Mirror)' is an opportunity to slow down and reflect on what it means to drift like clouds and flow like water," he told the Desert X team. That was certainly the case for viewers on Friday, who were lucky enough to watch the piece sway in the wind and catch the light in a way that made it truly sparkle against its backdrop of the Little San Bernardino Mountains.



Sanford Biggers' "Unsui" ("Mirror") art piece is on display for Desert X 2025 at the James O. Jesse Desert Highland Unity Center in Palm Springs, on March 7, 2025. *Emma Sasic/The Desert Sun*

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## 'Plotting Rest'

**Artist:** Kapwani Kiwanga

**Location:** North of the Palm Springs Visitor Center at Tramway Road in Palm Springs

"Plotting Rest" was not yet completed at the time of this article, but will be available for viewing next week.

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# 'The Living Pyramid'



**Artist:** Agnes Denes

The Desert X installation "The Living Pyramids" by Agnes Denes is on display at Sunnylands Center and Gardens in Rancho Mirage, Calif., Feb. 28, 2025. *Jay Calderoni/The Desert Sun*

**Location:** Sunnylands Center & Gardens, 37-977 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage

"The Living Pyramid" by 94-year-old Hungarian-American artist Agnes Denes stands as a tall monument to architecture and the environment at Sunnylands. The pyramid will go through a few iterations while it's on display, and it is currently covered in live vegetation that is native to the area and was planted a couple months ago. The structure will be brought to life by the plants' life cycles that will showcase their growth, transformation and eventual death, reminding us all of the beauty and preciousness of life.

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# 'The act of being together'



**Artist:** Jose Dávila

**Location:** Worsley Road between Pierson Boulevard & Painted Hills Road, Desert Hot Springs

Desert X installation "The act of being together" by Jose Dávila in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., on March 7, 2025. *Brian Blueskye*

Mexican multidisciplinary artist Jose Dávila told the Desert X team a simple message he'd like to convey to those viewing "The act of being together": "Look beyond what you see, and feel the silence between the objects." To fully appreciate Dávila's rock formations, it's best to approach them from various angles. Get up close to enjoy the views of Desert Hot Springs and the windmills, and explore the different perspectives that the installation provides. Although it may appear simple at first glance, there is much more to discover than meets the eye

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## 'G.H.O.S.T. Ride'

**Artist:** Cannupa Hanska Luger

**Location:** Pierson Boulevard between Foxdale Drive & Miracle Hill Road, Desert Hot Springs

Those who visit Hanska Luger's "G.H.O.S.T. Ride" in Desert Hot Springs should be prepared for a journey just under a mile into the canyons of Desert Hot Springs from the parking lot Pierson Boulevard. Upon first glance, the artwork speaks to the modern culture of "van life" and sustainability in rural areas, those parking and camping on Bureau of Land Management land and the open desert. The retro van features some accents that speak to his Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara and Lakota ancestry and the setting.



Desert X installation "G.H.O.S.T. Ride" in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., on March 7, 2025. *Brian Blueskye*

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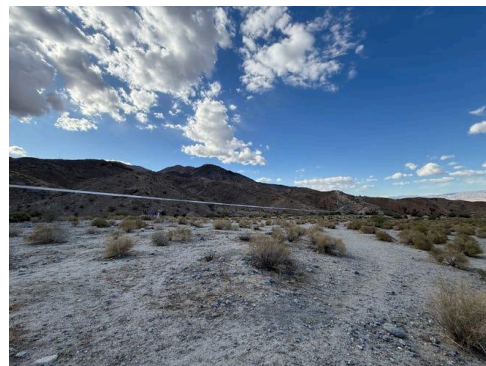
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## 'Five things you can't wear on TV'

**Artist:** Raphael Hefti

**Location:** Homme Adams Park, 72-500 Thrush Road, Palm Desert

If it appears as though there's a long, shiny line stretching from one side of Homme Adams Park to the other, your eyes aren't playing tricks on you. "Five things you can't wear on TV" by Zurich-based artist Raphael Hefti utilizes a black woven polymer fiber — originally designed for light, durable fire hoses — that is coated on one side with a reflective surface to form, essentially, a horizon. When wind passes through the area, the line begins to oscillate, and you might even hear a gentle vibration nearby too.



"Five things you can't wear on TV" by Raphael Hefti is on display as part of Desert X 2025 at Homme Adams Park, located at 72-500 Thrush Road in Palm Desert, on March 7, 2025. *Ema Sasic/The Desert Sun*

## 'To Breathe – Coachella Valley'

**Artist:** Kimsooja

**Location:** Pierson Boulevard between Foxdale Drive & Miracle Hill Road, Desert Hot Springs

"To Breathe" was not yet completed at the time of this article, but will be available for viewing next week.

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## 'Truth Arrives in Slanted Beams'

**Artist:** Sarah Meyohas

**Location:** 74-184 Portola Road, Palm Desert

Sarah Meyohas' sprawling "Truth Arrives in Slanted Beams" showcases "caustics," or light patterns formed by the refraction or reflection of light through curved surfaces. Visitors are greeted by a white pathway on the side of the road that leads them to the ribbon-like installation. As you go to each stop, words from the art piece's name are projected onto the white walls, which visitors can manipulate. Waves and other patterns (we promise they're not mirages) are seen projected as well.



Sarah Meyohas' "Truth Arrives in Slanted Beams" is seen on display as part of Desert X 2025 at 74-184 Portola Road in Palm Desert, on March 7, 2025. *Ema Sasic/The Desert Sun*

## 'Adobe Oasis'

**Artist:** Ronald Rael

**Location:** 1555 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs

"Adobe Oasis" took about seven weeks to make, and it was assembled entirely by a 3D printer. Berkeley-based artist Ronald



Rael told viewers on Friday that he wanted to create something out of adobe because it's a tactile material — which can be recycled if the piece, which was designed to be temporary, is destroyed — that we as humans are deeply connected to via heritage and genetics. "I see an adobe house the same way I see ancestors and grandparents. As they get older, we love their wrinkles ... we appreciate how they age," he said. "This is the skin of our future ancestors."

Ronald Rael's "Adobe Oasis" is seen on display for Desert X 2025 at 1555 S. Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs on March 7, 2025. *Ema Sasic/The Desert Sun*

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## 'Soul Service Station'

**Artist:** Alison Saar

**Location:** Pierson Boulevard between North Indian Canyon Drive & Desert Terrace Way, Desert Hot Springs

A mysterious gas station, located off Pierson Boulevard in Desert Hot Springs, features several signs welcoming customers to the full-service experience that was once common at gas stations. Its small and rustic design blends seamlessly with the surrounding landscape. However, if you look closely, you'll notice a peculiar figure standing behind the glass inside. If you pick up one of the conch shells attached to the single gas pump, you'll hear her recite a poem.



Desert X installation "Soul Service Station" in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., on March 7, 2025. *Brian Blueskye*

# 'What Remains'

**Artist:** Muhannad Shono

**Location:** Avenue 38 off Varner Road, Thousand Palms

When there is no place left that you can call home, that you can return to and settle upon, what remains? Muhannad Shono's "What Remains" imagines what would be left behind in a sandy plot after a big windstorm. Long strips of fabric covered in sand are positioned throughout a field, appearing as if they've been mangled in bushes and are swaying in the wind. It's a staggering visual both on the ground and from a higher elevation, which uses the land to its advantage as it takes on the shape of nature.



Muhannad Shono's "What Remains" is seen on display for Desert X 2025 on Avenue 38 off Varner Road in Thousand Palms, on March 7, 2025. *Ema Sasic/The Desert Sun*

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