

# Desert X 2021

A site-specific contemporary art exhibition in the Coachella Valley





Free to the public and in the open air, Desert X is the new paradigm for a contemporary art exhibition. With the third edition, it will once again take inspiration from the desert landscape of the Coachella Valley to create original site-specific installations, activations, and community initiatives by some of today's most engaging and diverse contemporary artists.

**Desert X 2021**  
***February 6 – April 11, 2021***  
**Coachella Valley, CA**





**Artist Project**

Serge Attukwei Clottey



# Serge Attukwei Clottey

Born 1985 | Accra, Ghana

Serge Attukwei Clottey is known for his work that examines the powerful agency of everyday objects. Working across installation, performance, photography and sculpture, Clottey explores narratives of personal, family and collective histories often relating to trade and migration. Based in Accra and working internationally, Clottey, the creator of AfroGallonism, an artistic concept that comments on consumption within modern Africa through the utilization of yellow gallon containers. Through cutting, drilling, stitching and melting found materials, Clottey's sculptural installations are bold assemblages that act as a means of inquiry into questions of form and history. As the founder of Ghana's GoLokal performance collective, Clottey sees art as a way to transform society. With aspects of activism prevalent in his practice, his works challenge convention and advocate the importance of creativity.







# Serge Attukwei Clottey

Serge Attukwei Clottey's project for Desert X is informed by histories of water that extend from the Coachella Valley to West Africa. Access to water is more than a public policy issue—it is a cultural and social one. Water is an invaluable resource for communities and is at the center of their holistic well being. Access to water sources and control of the various civic and private entities that manage it are the heart of movements for environmental justice around the globe. Acknowledging the Coachella Valley's complex histories of water access, control, and management, and the ongoing movements to improve the environmental conditions in communities across the Valley, Attukwei's project is an act of global solidarity. Using yellow plastic from kuofur gallons that are used in Ghana to transport water, Attukwei will create two large scale stand-alone cubes that reference the distant water wells that people in his village have to travel to access potable water. Installed in a location overlooking the Coachella Valley, the structures will be the culminating point of a large road paved by the same plastic yellow material—a reference to the Yellow Brick Road of Oz. The project reminds us of a coming global water crisis that is in its early stages and of the necessity for environmental justice movements that can ensure that water won't become an unattainable resource one day.





SERGE ATTUKWEI CLOTTEY | Artist rendering







# Serge Attukwei Clottey | *Select Other Works*







*Serge's work is deeply invested in environmental justice issues that connect diverse communities globally. His practice draws attention to the difficulties communities face when they don't have access to water. This has particularly poignant in his native Ghana. His project connects the context he lives and works in with the local realities of the Coachella Valley and in doing so will hopefully draw attention to the possibility of translational solidarity movements for social justice.*

*- César García-Alvarez*





## About the Curators



# Neville Wakefield

Artistic Director / Co-Curator



Neville Wakefield is a modern curator interested in exploring the ways in which art behaves outside of institutional contexts. This interest led him to co-found Elevation1049, a site-specific biennial in Gstaad, Switzerland, while his role as artistic director of Desert X has been instrumental in shaping the recurring exhibition that attracted over 400,000 visitors to the Coachella Valley region of Southern California. With Saudi curators Raneem Farsi and Aya Alireza he is co-curator of Desert X AlUla 2020, a site-specific exhibition of international artists, taking place in AlUla, northwest Saudi Arabia, home to the country's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, Hegra. 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 noncommercial contexts. He has worked extensively with international institutions, including the Schaulager Switzerland, where he curated the Matthew Barney retrospective *Prayer Sheet with the Wound and the Nail*.





# César García-Alvarez

Co-Curator

César García-Alvarez is the Founder and current Executive & Artistic Director of The Mistake Room (TMR)—LA's international non-profit contemporary art space. At TMR García-Alvarez has organized projects and exhibitions with Oscar Murillo, Korakrit Arunanondchai, Ed Clark, Vivian Suter, Diana Thater, Mandy el-Sayegh, Thomas Hirschhorn, Henry Taylor, Christopher Myers, Eduardo Sarabia, Tuan Andrew Nguyen, and Serge Attukwei Clottey amongst others. Prior to founding TMR García-Alvarez was Associate Director and Senior Curator of LAXART (2007-2012). He was one of the curators of Made in L.A. 2012, the first iteration of the Hammer Museum's LA Biennial, and from 2012-2013 served as the US Commissioner for the 13th International Cairo Biennial in Egypt. García-Alvarez's recent books include monographs on artists Eduardo Sarabia and Brenna Youngblood. He is currently at work on an edited volume titled The Anthology of Errors which documents the history and work of TMR's first five years. He lives and works between Los Angeles, CA and Guadalajara, Mexico.





## Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and honor the Cahuilla people, who are the traditional custodians of the land where Desert X takes place.

We respect the Cahuilla culture and identity which has been bound up for generations with the land upon which we live, learn and create.



To learn how you can support this project,  
please contact

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Thank You

