



This publication was produced in conjunction with the High Desert Test Sites event which took place on May 12 and 13, 2007 in the Morongo Valley towns of Joshua Tree, Pioneertown, Yucca Valley, Wonder Valley and 29 Palms.

Publication design and editing: David Dodge

Thanks to Andrea Zittel, Lisa Ann Auerbach and all the artists and contributors for their time and patience.

The High Desert Test Sites is a project organized by Andrea Zittel, Shaun Caley-Regen, Lisa Anne Auerbach, John Connely and Andy Stillpass.

With guest organizers:

Eungie Joo : for Rodney McMillian

and The Wrong Gallery: for David Shrigley

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For up-to-date information visit www.highdeserttestsites.com

Welcome to the 2007 High Desert Test Sites.
This year we have gone leaner and meaner,
a call back to the early days when a bottle
of beer and a smile brought you untold art
moment wonders in the high desert.

HDTS 07

WARNING:

*As always please remember to bring and drink lots of water,
wear a wide-brimmed hat, carry snacks with you (convenience
diminishes rapidly away from Highway 62), carry a trash bag
for all your snack wrappers and wear plenty of sunscreen.*

THE DESERT AND THE HEAT ARE EXTREME!!

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Kimi's Grill

This new addition to the High Desert's dining options is located in the Yucca Valley Inn. While we don't normally expect to taste fresh sushi in the desert, this highly recommended Japanese restaurant at the Western tip of Yucca Valley exceeded our expectations. The fish was fresh, the tempura was subtle and the outdoor beer garden beckoned. A great place to stop on your way in or out of the Valley.

7500 Camino Del Ciel Trail, Yucca Valley, CA

Perennial Favorites

Crossroads Cafe:

A favorite for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Good, affordable, hearty meals and great community vibe. 61715 29 Palms Hwy, Joshua Tree, CA (760) 366-5414

Wonder Garden:

Combination health store and lunch spot with a great outdoor patio. 73511 29 Palms Hwy, 29 Palms, CA (760) 367-2429

Water Canyon:

Great smoothies, sandwiches and high-speed wifi for when you are jonesing. 55844 29 Palms Hwy, Yucca Valley, CA (760) 365-7771



some places to EAT

A disappearance and reappearance

Rodney McMillian

On April 21st 2007, Rodney McMillian left Los Angeles destined for Wonder Valley with a plan to scout locations for his HDTS performance. But as he approached the Coachella Valley's Wind farm he entered a desert version of the Bermuda Triangle whose unlikely vertices were an exit ramp off the 10 and 2 ex-security Guards for Michael Jackson.

We first received word of trouble when Rodney reported that his Nissan had overheated on the long grade between interstate 10 and the town of Yucca Valley. Lisa Anne Auerbach coincidentally happened to be about 20 minutes behind him on the same passage so she pulled off in Morongo to give him a lift in her Volvo Sedan. For the rest of the day Rodney was driven around in a three car caravan on a journey that included a visit to Iron Age Road near the Sheep Hole Mountain Range and the back patio at the Palms for a few pitchers of Pabst Blue Ribbon.

It was at the Palms Restaurant where Rodney came in contact with the first ex-Michael Jackson security guard he was hovering near our group and at a break in the conversation announced with no prompting that he had been a MJ security Guard as well as the owner of a French restaurant in Malaysia. He also explained that he was a practicing holistic healer

Finally at the end of a long day, Rodney was dropped off at his car (which had been cooling its radiator at the Chevron Station in Morongo). Everyone was keeping their fingers crossed that the car would make a smooth trip for the rest of the mostly downhill passage back to Los Angeles. But by the time that he had reached the Haugen-Lehmann exit his car gave up the ghost.



The first human who Rodney encountered after his breakdown was a security guard wearing a Michael Jackson "Dangerous" tour jacket. The meeting wasn't as reassuring as he might have hoped since the guard kept reminding him how dangerous this area was, explaining that bodies got dumped there and the exit was named after two murdered police officers. Coincidentally it should be mentioned that Andrea and David and Baby Emmett had broken down on that same off ramp two years prior as had Shaun Regen on one of her trips out to the desert. It is now our common conclusion that this truly is a cursed off ramp - drivers beware!

At last Rodney was able to leave with a tow truck which pulled his car back to LA. His strange story actually wasn't over ...

Here is a description that Rodney sent us of his impulse for the performance. It should be noted that the performance was originally envisioned as a journey into an unknown landscape:

I realized that this piece is and was really about my desire to find some silence or perhaps some different sounds than the ones I've been hearing...or about seeking out the sounds in my head hoping to discern the tones, rhythms, pitches, words, etc. That resonated the most clearly, or in the most clearly discordant way and anything in between and outside there of.. It was about a meditation and it is not one as well. I would have to be open, aware, alert and open to my surroundings and I was excited about what could be discovered or processed from a simple meandering or act of wandering without an end as a goal and without getting physically lost. It's about a mind wander... which is something I embark on regularly (particularly in my car, because my stereo hasn't work in several months and I have 2 long commutes 4 days a week so daydreaming, remembered melodies, traffic and humming are my sounds) but this time it was located or was to be activated by a place and by my body moving through unfamiliar spaces. I think I was intrigued with the sheer real expanse of the place and was curious about how that could translate to the body and mind, mind and body--- at least on this particular walk...I wondered what I'd hear.



Screening in Pioneertown
 Saturday night
 8 PM

Piotr Uklanski



Thanks to Andy Stillpass for all his work in making this event possible.

Summer Love is my debut film. It is the first Polish Western. It was filmed on location in southern Poland with a Polish cast. The film is neither a parody, nor homage; it does not attempt to resuscitate the supposedly dead genre of the Western. Arguably, Summer Love is not a Western, but an allegorical film that uses the language of a Western. It exploits cinema's most codified genre to address issues of ethnic identity and cultural authenticity.

As the film unfolds the characters are introduced not by name, but by what they represent. THE WOMAN (Katarzyna Figura) is a fading beauty who can't quite conceal the scars of her past. THE SHERIFF (Boguslaw Linda) is an alcoholic, lovelorn shell of a man who is literally mutilating himself over losing The Woman. THE BIG MAN (Krzysztof Zaleski) is a fat, jealous cohort of The Sheriff who lusts after The Woman.

One day, The Stranger comes to town on horseback with THE WANTED MAN (Val Kilmer) who he retrieved at the site of a massacre in the film's opening scenes. The Stranger has come to collect the bounty money. He winds up getting roped into playing The Sheriff's sadistic gambling game and loses The Wanted Man to the gloating Sheriff. Fed up with this self-destructive ploy, The Woman storms out of the saloon. Later that night, The Woman in a state of desperation seduces The Stranger. All hell breaks loose after their night of passion. A posse is formed under the Sheriff's inept leadership and an epic manhunt ensues.

Told in a highly visual style, Summer Love recounts a tale of love, pain, redemption and death. On a surface the story is as old as time: Man loses Woman...Woman wants a new life...Stranger comes to town. Summer Love relies less on dialogue than upon on fast paced, meticulously composed images. They lead the audience into the hearts and minds of the characters creating the visual tableaux that tell their stories.



Liz Larner

We met Liz Larner while she was scouting the High Desert for the perfect dead tree. She had a film crew in tow who were filming her developing her piece at HDTs from start to finish for inclusion in a documentary about the artistic process. Larner's piece, "Park", has had at least two previous manifestations before it's arrival in Pioneertown. While living in Malibu, Larner became intensely drawn to the Century plants whose once-a-lifetime bloom is so large and heavy that the plant dies afterwards. She took one of these immense plants and installed it halfway inside of a garage at the Schindler MAK apartments and planted a living orchid in the body of the agave. The piece was installed and altered a second time in the courtyard at MOCA for her survey show. While remaining slightly skeptical about bringing art to the natural beauty of the desert, Liz's impulse to have the new sprout from the dead seems utterly appropriate given the aftermath of last summer's horrific Sawtooth Fire which blackened most of Pioneertown and its environs.



David Shrigley/The Wrong Gallery

In 2002, the artist Maurizio Cattelan teamed up with curators Massimiliano Gioni and Ali Subotnick to create The Wrong Gallery, the smallest exhibition space in New York. Located in Chelsea from 2002 – 2005, The Wrong Gallery was nothing but a glass door with one square foot of exhibition space behind it. Evicted from 20th Street in 2005, The Wrong Gallery relocated to within the Collection Displays at Tate Modern, where it will remain through 2007 as a Trojan Horse smuggling its own agenda into the larger institution.

The HDTS flag by David Shrigley was originally destined for the Wrong Gallery at the Tate Modern. Lucky for us the Tate didn't have a flagpole or other flag-flying set-up, so the flag has flown the ocean and now wafts in full glory off of Gamma Gulch Road in Pioneertown USA.



THE WIND



THE
WIND IS
BLOWING
FROM THIS
DIRECTION

Copyright 2007 David Shrigley

David Shrigley's project is courtesy of the artist and the Anton Kern Gallery, New York.



Welcome to Wonder Valley!

Jack Pierson, a long time Wonder Valley resident, has produced a whole series of signs for HDTs. These signs have always been well loved in the High Desert... sometimes they have been loved too much. The sign from HDTs2 was stolen half way through it's debut weekend! Some folks who frequent the Palms think that they might know who has it. A neighborhood intervention was discussed – but for the time being some desert rat has their own pink sparkly “nothing” sign.

For this year's Test Sites Jack is paying homage to one of Wonder Valley's great signs.

Catch it while you can!

Jack Pierson

CHRIS JAMES

With my Land Cruiser I make a small encampment out of the station, sleeping in the back of the truck and using the unit to keep gear for climbing in the vicinity.

JENNIFER NOCON

To fully integrate into the desert community I needed to create a private space where I could realistically envision myself slowing down.

CAROLYN CASTAÑO

Inspired by Joshua Tree and the new age and metaphysical cultures it attracts, the wagon station serves as a personal space for meditation and transcendental thought.

CONNIE WALSH AND CHRIS YOUNG

WGNSTN is a utilitarian unit incorporating elements of both an alpine climbers refuge and an accessible semi-urban retreat.

GUY GREEN

I decided to build with junk and scraps native to the area, and wanted the unit to look and feel as if it grew from the site.

AARON NOBLE

I slept in the uncustomized Wagon Station and felt cramped and cut off from the psychedelic desert of my youth. Rebellious, I punched it full of holes and sought shelter from my mother. She made me this quilt.

A-Z West Wagon Station Customizations





RUSSELL WHITTEN

Russell's elaborately hand crafted red and silver wagon station customization reflects his avid enthusiasm for a dirt bike culture and all things with flames.

CHUCK MOFFIT

Landscaped for a dirty bomb...sleep with it and sit with it. Minimal intervention for maximal existential reflection.

GIOVANNI JANCE

Giovanni's wall panels are cut from three-dimensional renderings of sound waves extracted from ambient desert sounds that he recorded at A-Z west over the past years.

VERONICA FERNANDEZ AND PETER BLACKBURN

It was not by chance that the wagons crossing the West were called prairie schooners; traversing a broad expanse as they did, they had all the appearances of boats adrift in an infinite sea.

JONAS HAUPTMAN

Jonas tripled his interior space by exploding the form and adding extra sections. His Design also integrates below deck sleeping quarters, wood stove, porch stoop, second door, cabinets and a writing nook.

DAVID DODGE AND ANDREA ZITTEL

David and Andrea joined their two wagon stations together, back to back, to form a semi-circular unit. Half is for sleeping while the other half is for reading eating and storage functions.

Ann Magnuson

I LOVES ME A GOOD RITUAL

HOTS 07

12



Stone witness guard dog.

It all began with the crystals idea. Crystals, salt crystals in the Bible, where people who didn't do the right thing got turned to salt pillars. So I made guard hats out of pink marble. Also this idea that mermaids - in their early forms, are transformed into ROCKS when they can no longer charm sailors.....yes, more on this but...This idea to marble, guard hats, stone butch. No security, just impotent words, carved into an image. The dogs can be seen as an extension of my own body, you can use a tactile gaze in place of the usual electronic one, these are Dobermans, yes, all of them all 19 are females with nipples but hardly sexed at the hind legs. The reason for the Doberman, was that...when you take away the tail and the ears flopping around with emotion.... they're like wearing dark sunglasses, you don't know what they are thinking and could strike at any minute. But Dobermans are meant as protection dogs, not attack.....

The dog sculpture does have its kitch element, "repossess the experience of intensity and immediacy through an object." Yea, wish I had had. Fake guard dog and artificial security, fear and resolution mix

is what I was interested in. John had said "Stranger, danger!" some have black eyes, (blinded) some have black collars, (enslaved) some are free. They need to be out in a landscape or garden.

--Julia Scher



Julia Scher

UNICYCLE SHOP

Lisa Anne Auerbach, the writer and editor of this HDTs guide in years past, will be tending a Unicycle Shop during HDTs 07. Lisa does a lot of knitting, photographing and zine publishing, and one of her ongoing photographic projects documents small businesses. A longtime advocate of bicycle travel in Los Angeles, she publishes Saddlesore, a zine documenting her 2-wheeled travels through the city. Following her interest in both small businesses and bicycling, she has somehow lost a wheel and gone full-on UNI, or as she likes to call it, "LUNI." She promises to have nineteen functioning unicycles for your pleasure and enjoyment (all risk and responsibility are yours) at her small shop near the HDTs headquarters. Bring your knee pads, helmets, and rotten tomatoes. Jugglers welcome.

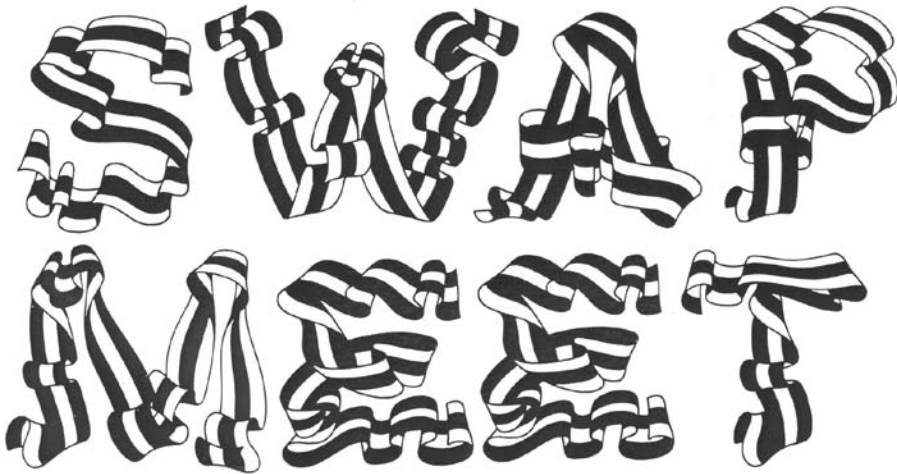
www.lisaanneauerbach.com

Lisa Anne Auerbach

HDTs 07



Amy and Wendy Yao



Booths by:

Alice Konitz, Katrin Pesch & Michael Rashkow -
Mountain School of Arts - Patrick Jackson & Matt
Borruso - Little Chan - Chris Lipomi - Amy Yao & Wendy
Yao - Sara Clendening

Editions, Etc by:

Pentti Monkkonen - Piero Golia - David Benjamin Sherry
- Justin Beal - Mike E. Smith - Petrova Giberson -
Shannon Ebner & Erika Vogt - Michele Abeles - Violet
Hopkins - Derek Larson - Marie Jager - Avigail Moss -
John Bianchi - Laura Kleger - Tyson Reeder - Reka
Reisinger - Donald Morgan

+ a variety of Books, CDs, etc from Ooga Booga, LosAngeles
<http://www.artswapmeet.blogspot.com>



John Bock

In April of 2007, John Bock flew to the High Desert from his home base in Berlin to shoot a new film called “Palms”. The object on stage at the Art Queen is a prop from the film which he fondly left behind to accompany The Sibleys when they play on stage.

A few notes from the making of John Bock’s film shot in the High Desert last month:

- The crew mostly ate Denny’s and pizza. In fact the pizza boxes came in quite handy and ended up serving as cue cards for the filming.

- One night during the filming the crew tried to go through the McDonald’s drive-through on foot. (It was after the counter had already closed.) McDonald’s would not serve them so they went and got the car. When they pulled up to the drive-through window the amount of food they wanted to order exceeded McDonald’s per car limit. So, the crew ended up going through the drive through several different times to fulfill the order.

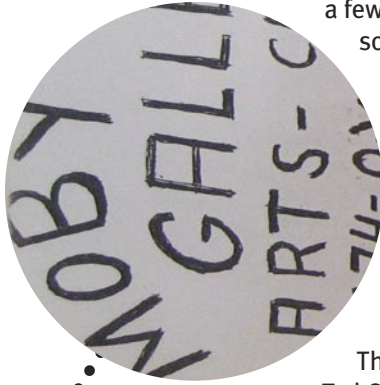
- John used a variety of locations to film including Joshua Tree, the Palms (where The Sibleys played clothed in red satin costumes which John had tailor made for each of them), Jack Pierson’s pool and Andy’s land on God’s Way Love.

- When John went out to the desert in late January to scout for locations, he met a local at the Palms. It was 10:45 AM and he was sitting out back drinking a Pabst Blue Ribbon. John told him we were looking for the owners and he told us the bar did not open until 11:00 AM. (I guess he brought his own beer until the bar opened). He then proceeded to tell us the bar hours for every day of the week. He allowed us to take his photo. He was very sweet and helpful - a true character that is better than any you could ever write or imagine.



Randy Palumbo and Shari Elf, curators at the Art Queen in Joshua Tree and purveyors of Turkeytown Biodiesel, wanted their next show to include works by musicians who were also visual artists. Randy had a few paintings by Daniel Johnston as well as some artworks by music makers from New York's East Village scene in the Eighties. As they started considering musicians they knew in the High Desert the list grew exponentially.

While the works were assembled a hoe-down was planned. This rockin' event will also cap HDTS07 and features performances by Ann Magnuson, Phranc, The Sibleys, Shari Elf and the Fairy Elf Band, Ted Quinn, Doug Newman, Neulander, The Clouds and Harmondale with special surprise guests to celebrate the opening of the ROCKSTAR exhibit. Free drinks, fun and tasty snacks!



3-7 PM, May 13 at the Art Queen

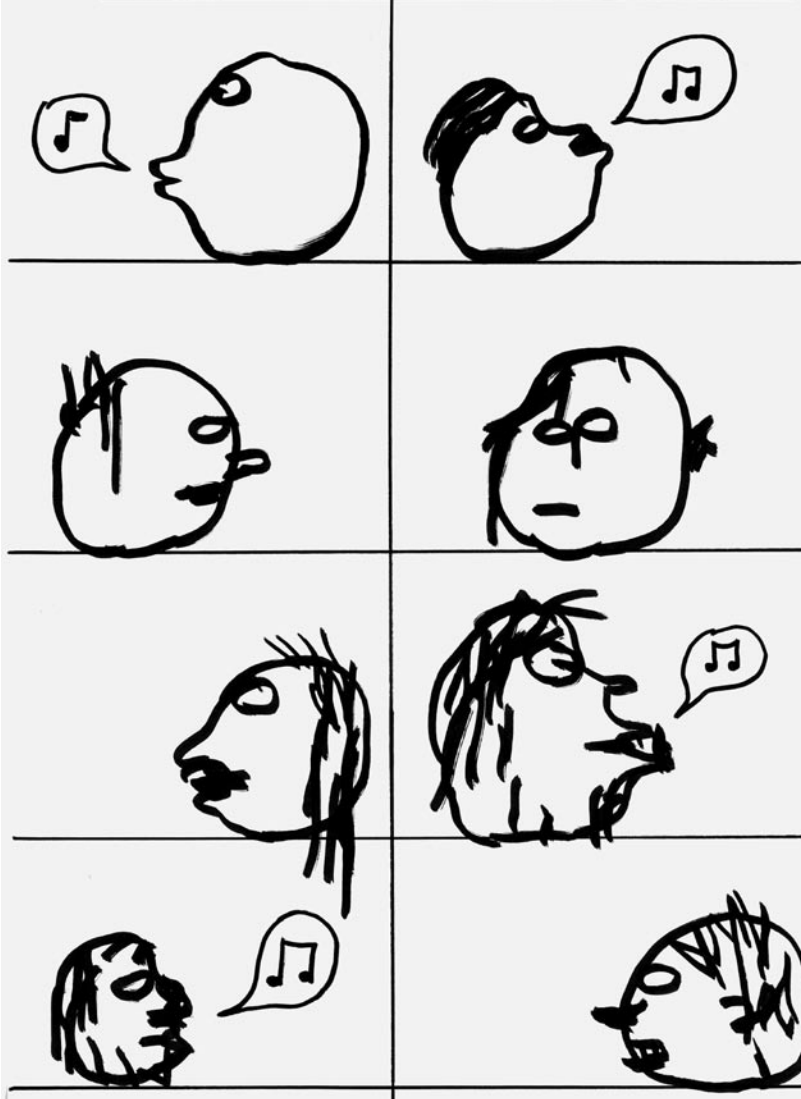
For a full list of participating musicians:
<http://www.sharielf.com/news.html>

For info on Biodiesel in Joshua Tree:
<http://www.3-dlaboratory.com/turkeytown.html>

“Rockstar” at Art Queen

**Images of artwork by Victoria Williams and Moby Dick

SOME WHISTLE SOME DON'T



Copyright 2007 David Shrigley

Avoid getting stuck in the sand!

- 1) Drive in a high clearance, 4x4 vehicle.
- 2) If the road appears soft rather than packed, either avoid it or keep your vehicle moving over the soft spot at a good speed.
- 3) Avoid the edges of roads and don't offroad. This is where the dirt is less packed and where you will likely get stuck.
- 4) Once you are stuck, don't gun the engine. You will likely just dig your vehicle deeper. Get out of the car and put a piece of plywood or rug under the tire. These items are often found on the side of the road. Use them to give your vehicle traction.
- 5) Call for towing. Odd Rod Towing: (760) 369-9419; Thomas Towing: (760) 367-7117; Cobb's Towing: (760) 367-3433; All N One Towing (760) 365-7699; B&B Auto Wrecking (760) 367-7014

*Dedicated to the residents of the High Desert who held tough
through the devastation of the Sawtooth fire, July 2006.*





**LIVING AND
AGING WELL**