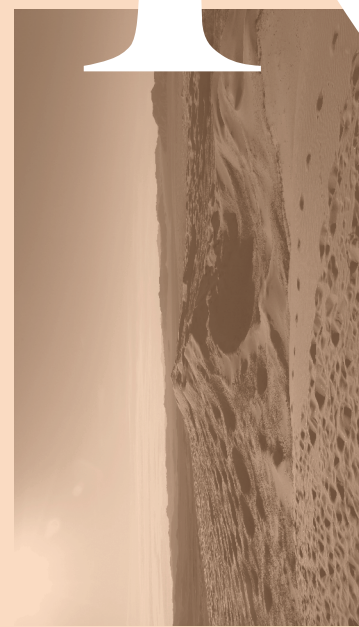


HD
TS
20
22

THE SEARCHERS

OPENING
WEEKEND
APRIL 9–10
CLOSING
MAY 22

Nine artists offer a narrative on the geometry of ruin, the entropic play of nature, and the ghosts of cultures both ancient and modern, human and non-human.



11 NEW
SITE-
SPECIFIC
WORKS:

Pioneertown

Dana Sherwood
Rachel Whiteread

Joshua Tree

Gerald Clarke
Erkan Özgen

Wonder Valley

Dineo Seshee Bopape
Alice Channer
Jack Pierson
Kate Lee Short
Paloma Varga Weisz

GUEST
CURATED BY
Iwona Blazwick
(OBE, Director of Whitechapel Gallery)

HDS 2022 emerges from a heavy felt shift in both culture-at-large and our local desert communities. Its title *The Searchers* shines light on the “regenerative ruin,” a concept that follows 21st century human intervention in our desert region. As a historically nomadic environment, the desert has played host to waves of different existences—transitory settlements, sanctuaries, and living experiments. This particular desert, at the bottom of the dense Mojave, occupies a fringe space between the western apexes of Los Angeles and Las Vegas where these experiments flourish. Its uniqueness lies in the many ungoverned moments, layered visions, and transposed uses of space that comprise a landscape full of attempted solutions to the basic question of “How to live?”

For more information, visit us at highdeserttestsites.com or follow us at [@highdeserttestsites](https://www.instagram.com/highdeserttestsites)

To get involved as a donor or volunteer, please email info@hdts.site

① Rachel Whiteroad
Shack I and Shack II

Among her series of "shy sculptures" cast from shacks and sheds in remote locations, Whiteroad has created concrete casts of two abandoned homestead cabins. She transforms them into quiet monuments to the aspirations and tenacity of their former inhabitants.

Sohn family property, Pioneertown

② Dana Sherwood
Other Dessert Landscapes

A desert feast acts as backdrop for a ceremonial dance that fuses the human with the equine. This video work resulted from time spent at Joey's Home Animal Rescue in Yucca Valley where care and rehabilitation is provided to neglected horses and other animals.

Andy's Gamma Gulch, Pioneertown

③ Erkan Özgen
HARESE

The Mojave Desert is the location for the largest Marine Corp base in America, where soldiers rehearse for a Middle Eastern theater of war. In a short video, a group of veterans transform weapons into musical instruments.

Firehouse Outpost, Joshua Tree

④ Gerald Clarke
Earth Memory

A sea of hundreds of flags invokes the ghosts of fish that swam through what is now the Sunfair Dry Lakebed. Recalling this ancient body of water, we are made aware of this moment being one small point within the scale of geologic time.

Sunfair Dry Lakebed, Joshua Tree

⑤ Jack Pierson
The End of the World

Pierson rescues the signs - neon, wooden, tin - that beckon to visitors from abandoned motels or derelict saloon bars. For this he sites a linguistic monument of a different kind, a giant wooden gesture for Wonder Valley, a place known for those who drop off the edge of civilization.

Private property, Wonder Valley

⑥ Paloma Varga Weisz
Foreign Body

Part of Southern California's architectural legacy lies in buildings whose form literally illustrates their function - lunch stands in the shape of hot dogs, coffee shops constructed as doughnuts, keyboard shaped piano bars. Weisz revives this tradition with a gigantic female figure. Sitting atop its structure, this monumental yet melancholy nude has been pierced by a tree. She emblemizes nature and its slow mutilation by humans.

The Palms, Wonder Valley

⑦ Kate Lee Short
Respite

A concrete room on the desert floor captures the symphonies created by the desert's most prodigious carver - the wind. Private property, Wonder Valley

⑧ Alice Channer
Rockpool

An 8-inch-tall, 60-foot-long salt-filled sculpture intricately curved from steel takes its horizontal form from satellite images of the 2010 British Petroleum Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This abstracted shape is stretched across the expansive California desert where sparkling salt crusts left by an ancient extinct ocean are extracted en masse, including for the fracking industry.

Ironage Road, Wonder Valley

⑨ Dineo Seshee Bopape
Lerato le le golo (... la go hloka bo kantle)

One witnesses the sand slowly returning to itself in this long term durational installation. Bopape's prosaic yet ritualistic structures excavate lapsed histories of displacement and rearrangement. Here, Sisyphistic stacks of bricks hand-formed by local volunteers out of earth sourced from the Sunfair Dry Lakebed evoke memories of this land and many lands.

Ironage Road, Wonder Valley

HD
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OPENING
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EVENTS
APRIL 9-10

Cahuilla bird songs at
④ Gerald Clarke's *Earth Memory*
Vegan hot dog kiosk at
⑥ Paloma Varga Weisz's *Foreign Body*

Opening Party &
Other Desert Radio performance at
The Palms, Wonder Valley

Ancient Ocean Arcade with
Mirror Manager (Abbey Lee Sarver) &
Ancient Pocket (Vanessa Santos) at the
HDTS HQ at Sky Village Swap Meet,
Yucca Valley

For hours and schedule please visit
www.highdeserttestsites.com
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TIPS: ● Drive with others ● Ask for directions ● Bring lots of water ● Wear Sunblock ● Be careful of fragile desert plants while walking through sites

Thank You

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