



COLLEGE
of the DESERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Feb. 27, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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COD's Marks Art Center Presents Artist Sant Khalsa Exhibition Opens Today

PALM DESERT, CA—College of the Desert's Marks Art Center proudly presents two photographic exhibitions featuring diverse perspectives on water in the California desert from Feb. 27 to April 13.

Sant Khalsa: Confluence features the artist's photo-based works focused on the theme of water and its relationship to the American West. Over the past 25 years, she has investigated the spiritual, economic and environmental concerns around water.

Desert Waters, a companion group exhibition curated by Khalsa, includes work by Scott B. Davis, Lewis deSoto, J. Bennett Fitts, Frederick Fulmer, Steve King, Thomas McGovern, Chelsea Mosher, Osceola Refetoff, Mark Ruwedel, Julie Shafer, Kim Stringfellow, and Andrew K. Thompson.

Both exhibitions are parallel programs to *Desert X*, the inaugural site-specific international contemporary art exhibition taking place throughout the Coachella Valley from Feb. 25 to April 30.

A free public reception with Khalsa for *Sant Khalsa: Confluence / Desert Waters* will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday March 9. Light refreshments and musical entertainment by high desert musicians The Renderers will be provided. Khalsa will give a brief talk for COD students at 4:30 p.m.

An additional artists' reception at the Marks Art Center will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 12 to allow artists and visitors living outside the Coachella Valley an opportunity to view the exhibition. This free reception follows the *Desert X* symposium *Desert Constellations: Art and Mythologies*, which will be held Saturday, March 11, in the Palm Springs Art Museum's Annenberg Theatre.

Both Marks Art Center receptions are free and open to the public.

Sant Khalsa will also speak about her work at the Rancho Mirage Public Library from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 11 as part of the Palm Springs Art Museum (PSAM) Lecture Series, a *Desert X* parallel program. This event is free and open to the public and will be moderated by Mara Gladstone, Ph.D., Associate Curator at PSAM.

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Sant Khalsa is an artist, educator and curator living in Southern California since 1975. The New York City native now lives in Joshua Tree. Her artworks develop from her inquiry into the nature of place and the complex environmental and societal issues present and visible in the landscape of the American West. Her work includes *Paving Paradise*, an extensive project about the Santa Ana River and watershed; *Western Waters*, an installation that addresses the commodification of nature and water as consumer product; and her current project on the Salton Sea that has been widely shown internationally in more than 150 exhibitions. It has been acquired by museum collections, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). She is represented by Kopeiken Gallery in Los Angeles and is a Professor of Art, Emeritus at CSU San Bernardino. For more information, visit www.santkhalsa.com.

The Marks Art Center is a nonprofit cultural and educational facility committed to excellence that provides a venue for creative exploration and community engagement. It is always free and open to the public. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday; and by appointment. For more information, call the Marks Art Center at (760) 776-7278, or go to www.facebook.com/MarksArtCenterCOD.

About College of the Desert:

Established in 1958, College of the Desert (COD), located in Palm Desert, is an accredited community college serving eastern Riverside County, California. The College leads the region in providing quality, higher education, technical training and lifelong learning opportunities, in response to the dynamic needs of our diverse community. The College serves more than 14,000 credit students and 1,000 non-credit students each year and is the number one source of transfer students to California State University, San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus. For more information, visit www.collegeofthedesert.edu.

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