

February 22, 2010



## ***Dry Immersion 3: Desert Projects***

***March 6-7, 2010***

***JT Getaway Ranch***

***The Palms Bar and Restaurant***

***Wonder Valley, CA***

***UCR Palm Desert Graduate Center,  
Palm Desert, CA***

Traditionally depicted as a harsh yet beautiful and timeless landscape, the desert in the 21st century is also a rapidly changing and contested space. As a growing population exerts pressure on California's 25000 square miles of ultra-arid lands, the desert is pictured simultaneously as the "next frontier of leisure," as dumping ground and as refuge of last resort, as unspoiled wilderness and irradiated hinterland, as spiritual, military, technological and artistic test site, as precious irreplaceable resource and as dirt-cheap real estate development opportunity.

On March 6th and 7th, twenty-four artists from seven University of California campuses will present work based on an intensive immersion in the natural and cultural landscapes of southeastern California's upper Mojave and lower Sonoran deserts. *Desert Projects* is the third part of a series exploring the intersection of two desert ecosystems and the communities bisecting them in California. The works in this project come from the *Dry Immersion 2: Roving Symposium* project. Co-organized by UCR Sweeney Art Gallery and University of California Institute for Research in the Arts (UCIRA), and held in October 2009, the Dry Immersion Roving Symposium was a four-day, mobile, non-hierarchical gathering of sixty-six artists, educators, and researchers from seven University of California campuses (UC Los Angeles, UC Irvine, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego, UC Riverside, UC Merced).

### **SCHEDULE and LOCATIONS of events:**

Saturday, Mar 6<sup>th</sup>

*JT Getaway Ranch, 85212 Woilmer Rd , Wonder Valley, CA 92277*

1:00-6 PM Site Specific installations, artists will discuss projects

Sundown (Approx 6:30 PM) Sound Performance of UR Rituals

*The Palms Bar and Restaurant, 73527 29 Palms Hwy, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277*

8:00 PM- video works and readings by participating artists, and performances by The Sibleys and Curly and the Black Lung

Sunday March 7th

*UCR Palm Desert Graduate Center, Building B, 75-080 Frank Sinatra Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92211*

12-2 PM Exhibition Reception at UCR Palm Desert Graduate Center

1 PM, Artists and Curator walkthrough

*Dry Immersion 3: Desert Projects* is curated by Dick Hebdige, UC Institute for the Arts Desert Studies Project Director, UCSB; Tyler Stallings, Director, Sweeney Art Gallery, UCR; and Shane Shukis, Assistant Director, Sweeney Art Gallery, UCR and has been generously supported by the University of California Institute for Research in the Arts (UCIRA), UCIRA Desert Studies. Additional support has come from UCSB Arts & Humanities Dean, City of Riverside, UCR Gluck Fellows Program of the Arts at UC Riverside, and the UCR Palm Desert Graduate Center. UCR Sweeney Art Gallery receives continued support of its programs from UC Riverside's College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) and UCR ARTSblock.

To attend, RSVP at 951-827-1467 or [sshukis@ucr.edu](mailto:sshukis@ucr.edu)

See website for documentation of Dry Immersion 1 and 2, and updated information on Dry Immersion 3, <http://www.sweeney.ucr.edu/exhibitions/mappingthedesert/>

### Artists in exhibition

#### JT Getaway Ranch site, Wonder Valley

Ted Byrnes	Caitlin Mitchell
Liz Chaney	Albert Ortega
Kelly Coats	Ron Russell
Helga Fassonaki	Andrew Scott
Pete Hawkes	Ash Smith
Matthew Hebert	Karen Spector
Steve Kim	Jared Stanley
Gregory Lenczycki	Gabie Strong
Jorge Martin	David Wicks
	Claire Zitzow

#### UCR Palm Desert Graduate Center

Desiree D'Alessandro  
Daniela Campins  
Ken Ehrlich  
Flora Kao  
J.R. Valenzuela  
Christopher Woodcock

#### Selected works:



Christopher Woodcock  
*Postmodern Mojave Viper*

A series of five large photographs that documents the ambiguous architecture of the Iraq/Afghanistan training facility constructed from shipping containers, highway dividers, and crashed cars at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, CA.

Liz Chaney, Ash Smith, Claire Zitzow  
*Untitled: Bristol Salt Lake.*

Chaney, Smith, and Zitzow interact with the Bristol Dry Lake landscape in a video that challenges the common perception of the desert as a barren place outside of history.



Pete Hawkes and David Wicks  
*Resonance Field*

An interactive, site-specific installation of ceramic plates that produce a range of tones varying in meter and intensity according to local seismic activity as you walk through it.

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### About UCR Sweeney Art Gallery

Sweeney Art Gallery is an artistic laboratory that engages diverse audiences with exhibitions and programs that are committed to experimentation, innovation, and the exploration of art in our time. Sweeney places a special emphasis on inspiring projects that explore new ideas and materials and re-envision the relationship between art and life. Established on the University of California-Riverside's campus in 1963, Sweeney moved to UCR ARTSblock in April of 2006 and plays a special role in contributing to the artistic spirit of the campus and the community at large. At the center of the Gallery's mission is an appreciation for the role of artists developing the intellectual and cultural life of society. ([www.sweeney.ucr.edu/](http://www.sweeney.ucr.edu/))

UCR ARTSblock consists of three premier art institutions—the California Museum of Photography, Sweeney Art Gallery, and the future Culver Center of the Arts (2010)—located on a single city block in downtown Riverside to create an integrated arts complex.

**About University of California Institute for Research in the Arts**

The University of California's Institute for Research in the Arts (UCIRA) supports UC artists dedicated to innovative approaches to form and content in the performing, media, and visual arts. Our goal is to support imaginative projects that transcend boundaries, or that fall outside the present confines of arts practice. UCIRA has a special interest in projects that are collaborative in nature and that benefit two or more UC campuses. A program of the UC Office of the President, UCIRA is committed to diversity in all its forms. (<http://www.ucira.ucsb.edu/>)

**UCR Palm Desert Graduate Center**

The University of California has been active in the Coachella Valley for nearly 100 years, initially supporting the agriculture industry and more recently impacting modern growth issues through research in areas such as transportation, air quality, and energy and water conservation. The UCR Palm Desert Graduate Center, established in 2005, provides graduate education to the Coachella Valley through its innovative Executive MBA and MFA degrees. (<http://palmdesert.ucr.edu/>)

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See Sweeney website for additional scheduling information and directions

