

N/O/W IN LOS/ANGELES

X MARKS THE SPOT Artists have long seen the pilgrimage into the desert as a metaphor for our search for meaning. So it's fitting that the second *Desert X* (desertx.org), a site-specific exhibition open to the public where visitors can create their own viewing journey, extends to encompass the Coachella Valley's nine cities, from Palm Springs to the Salton Sea. It will also push other boundaries: Expect projections and performances along with art that's only visible at night. While a selection of works will draw upon the last edition—Norma Jeane is expected to once again release *ShyBot*, the autonomous vehicle from the anonymous artist's *Coachella Walls* project, into the desert—many of this year's installations will find inspiration in the Valley's ecological and geographic evolution. Beginning Feb. 9 and running through April 21, the show will stretch in other ways too, partnering with Modernism Week on a guided, curated tour, and with the Palm Springs Art Museum. Founder Susan L. Davis admits that part of the impetus to create the biannual event was to shatter the area's hedonistic myth. "I wanted people to understand that this isn't just a pool anywhere or a golf course anywhere," she explains, "but a place that has a vibrant social, economic and environmental history." Or, as they might characterize it in Palm Springs, shaken, not stirred. —*Abigail Stone*

Installation view of
Doug Aitken's "Mirage"
(2017) at the inaugural
Desert X exhibition

