



COLLEGE
of the DESERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 22, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

James Meier 760.773.2589
Interim Director,
Community Relations

**COD's Visual Arts Program Presents Artists
Phillip K. Smith III and Sant Khalsa**

PALM DESERT, CA—College of the Desert's (COD) Visual Arts program is excited to announce two great events on March 9.

The first features Phillip K. Smith, III, an internationally known desert artist who will give an artist's talk in the Pollock Theatre at 1 p.m. Then, the Walter N. Marks Center for the Arts will host a reception for artist Sant Khalsa at 5 p.m.

Both events are parallel programs to Desert X, an exhibition of 15 site-specific artworks scattered across the Coachella Valley from Feb. 25 to April 30.

Smith, a valley native and former College of the Desert student who received bachelor's degrees in fine arts and architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design, creates two- and three-dimensional works that change the viewer's perception of the location in which the work is installed. His Desert X installation, *The Circle of Land and Sky*, will feature two long mirrored posts to provide a reflective space within the desert, composed entirely of the environment's two most prominent physical characteristics: land and sky. It will be installed in Palm Desert.

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, Khalsa has investigated the spiritual, economic and environmental concerns around water. The exhibition runs from Feb. 27 to April 13.

The nonprofit Desert X features established and emerging artists from around the world who were selected to use the desert as a canvas for art installations from Desert Hot Springs and Palm Springs to Indio and Coachella. The art will respond to various issues such as the desert's history, ecology, sociology and economy as well as the landscape itself. For more information, visit www.desertx.org.

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.

#

43500 Monterey Avenue, Palm Desert, CA 92260
760.346.8041 — www.collegeofthedesert.edu