

Lewis deSoto Biography

Lewis deSoto, born 1954, in San Bernardino, California is known for his installations, sculpture and public art that engages cosmological questions, notions of self, and plays with inherent phenomena. He was educated at UC Riverside and Claremont Graduate University. He taught at Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles, Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, WA., served as the Director of Graduate Studies at California College of Arts and Crafts and as is currently a Professor of Art at San Francisco State University.

His work has been exhibited in Japan, Europe and the United States. His work is in the collections of the Seattle Art Museum, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles as well as many private collections.

His exhibition, "Paranirvana" travelled from 2003-4 in the United States, organized by Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. and curated by Dan Mills, the Director of the Samek Art Center. The subject of the exhibition is now owned by the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego.

A version of the same piece is part of "The Missing Peace," a multi-part exhibition about Buddhism and the influence of the Dalai Lama on contemporary culture has traveled to a number of institutions in the United States, Asia and Europe. That work was recently purchased by the Columbus Museum of Art.

His installations vary in theme and choice of materials. Since 1991 has used sound elements in interior and exterior situations. In 2002 he began working with mezzo-soprano Erin Neff and produced a work for the Hudson River locale called "Haunt (Cantus)" an intonation of Latin bird species names. They have collaborated on a new work, "Klage (Lament)" for the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art in February 2009 and are working on "Deluge" for the Brooklyn Museum and a recently NEA and Smithsonian funded work "Tahquitz," for the Culver Center for the Arts in Riverside in 2012. Art OMI International Art Center is exhibition "Imperial America," deSoto's 1956 Chrysler Imperial in the Summer of 2012.

He has also published series of photographic and print projects, including "Appellation," a large scale examination of the viticultural landscape, "KLS," a graphic illustration of a Hermann Hesse novelette, and is currently working on "Core Samples," graphic extractions from scans from personal photographs that engage autobiography and poetry.

He lives with his wife, Chandra Cerrito, an Oakland gallerist in Napa, California and New York City.