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Dancers in front of a work by Sarah Meyohas in the Desert X festival in California on March 7, 2025 - AFP - VALERIE MACON

Partager

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Mysterious metal mirrors, piles of marble blocks, or a mud hut made using a 3D printer: the contemporary art festival Desert X, known for its giant outdoor installations in the Californian desert, opened its doors on Saturday.

Last year, 600,000 people gathered for the occasion in the Coachella Valley, 150 kilometers east of Los Angeles.

For this new edition with very political colors, which is held until May 11, the Franco-American artist Sarah Meyohas exhibits a work made of metal mirrors slightly curved to reflect sunlight on a stucco wall of more than 100 meters, to project the words "the truth comes through inclined rays".

"The truth is a really important concept in today's world," she explains to AFP.

"And I try to make an art that doesn't deceive people."

About ten kilometers away, Mexican artist Jose Davila stacked huge 16-ton blocks of marble extracted from a quarry in the Chihuahua desert, in his home country.



Mexican artist Jose Davila poses in front of his work at the Desert X festival in California on March 7, 2025 – AFP – Valerie MACON

The work, which recalls megalithic monuments such as Stonehenge in the United Kingdom, is entitled "Being together".

It is part of the context of tension in relations between the United States and Mexico since Donald Trump's victory, including the imposition of customs duties by the Republican president.

"Pebbles like these remind us that some things are there to stay while the inconveniences end up passing," he says.

Other installations include Ronald Rael's "L'oasis en adobe", which used a huge robotic arm to print huts made of mud and straw in three dimensions, in the traditional style of the southwestern United States.

For him, these old and flame-proof materials should be reused after the recent Los Angeles fires, which made 29 words in the Californian megacity in January.

"It's humanity's oldest building equipment," he argues.

The recent fires "attacked buildings made of plastic and toxic materials. The people of Los Angeles still can't drink running water," he adds.