## Allan McCollum: Mount Signal and its Sand Spikes: A Project for the Imperial Valley, California



Allan McCollum. *Mount Signal and its Sand Spikes: A Project for the Imperial Valley*, 2000. An inSITE 2000 Project, installed at the University Gallery, San Diego State University, San Diego, California. Enlarged 'Sand Spike' model and souvenir replicas produced in collaboration with the Imperial Valley Historical Society Pioneer Museum, Imperial, California (a sand spike is a naturally-formed sand concretion once common to the area beneath the local mountain). The models were cast from an actual Mount Signal sand spike concretion in the museum's collection, and exhibited along with over 50 paintings, drawings, and photographs of the mountain by local artists from California and Baja California, curated by McCollum.



Model of Mount Signal produced in collaboration with El Museo Universitario de la Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Mexicali, Mexico.

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Enlarged 'Sand Spike' model, in process of being permanently installed on the grounds of the Imperial Valley Historical Society Pioneer Museum, Imperial, California. Produced in collaboration with the museum, from an actual sand spike concretion in their collection.



This was an extensive project involving four different exhibitions in a Southern California desert community, all organized by McCollum, to honor a local mountain loved by the inhabitants of this Mexican and US border area. InSITE200 of San Diego/Tijuana gave \$20,000 to the project and weeks of labor; the rest was accomplished with many weeks of donated labor from the communities themselves, from both countries, and months of labor donated by the artist.