

A Visual Artist's Land Yacht Beaches in Palm Springs



Lewis deSoto/The Palm Springs Art Museum "Conquest," (2004), by Lewis deSoto, installed at the Palm Springs Art Museum.

A recent article in the Automobiles section [described the delicate art of maneuvering cars into museums](#) for exhibition purposes. Lewis deSoto, a visual artist I [profiled in The Times last year](#), experienced the process a few weeks ago when one of his automotive sculptures was hoisted by crane to the mezzanine of a museum in Palm Springs, Calif.

Although Mr. deSoto helped usher his motorized, multiton pieces into a number of galleries in the past, he found the levitation somewhat unnerving. The Desert Sun, a local newspaper, [recorded the airlift](#) in a rather captivating video. Once the car was lowered onto the landing, Mr. deSoto drove it through a set of gallery doors with little more than an inch to spare.

This summer, two exhibitions offer an opportunity to experience Mr. deSoto's work up close. "[Ransom: An Art Installation by Lewis deSoto](#)" is on view from now to Dec. 31 at the Palm Springs Art Museum. Through Sept. 18, the exhibition will feature "Conquest," a 1965 [Chrysler New Yorker](#) discreetly transformed into a fictitious prototype whose styling, badges and interior appointments reference the New World exploits of Hernando de Soto, the Spanish conquistador. Admission is free on Sept. 11, when Mr. deSoto is scheduled to attend a reception from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Another sculpture by Mr. deSoto will be on view from Aug. 5 to Oct. 8 at the [Napa Valley Museum](#) in Yountville, Calif. The exhibition, titled "Discrepancy," will feature the work of Nancy Willis, the show's curator, and 20 invited California artists, as well as a selection of artworks created by current and former residents of the [Pathway Home](#), a residential recovery program for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and other fronts in the war on terror.

Hulking among the artworks will be Mr. deSoto's "[Imperial America](#)," a 1956 Chrysler Imperial with a scale model of a ballistic missile affixed to its roof. While notably less subtle than "Conquest," the sculpture serves to illustrate the gulf between the behemoth vehicle's enveloping comforts and Chrysler's little-known role in the Cold War military-industrial complex.

The opening reception for "Discrepancy" is scheduled for Aug. 5, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Mr. deSoto is expected to be in attendance.