



Local & Community

Fuel for the Soul: A Thought-Provoking Desert X Installation



As the Desert X tour continues, we arrive at "Soul Service Station" by Alison Saar in Desert Hot Springs, a site that redefines the concept of a gas station. Located at Pearson and North Indian Canyon, this installation transforms a place of mere functionality into a space for reflection, renewal, and even spiritual restoration.

We often think of gas stations as quick stops—get fuel and move on. But what if a gas station could also refuel your soul? That's the question at the heart of this unique installation. The artist behind the work has created an environment where visitors are encouraged to slow down and reflect. At the center of the exhibit stands a hand-carved female figure, described as the guardian and healer of the space, radiating strength and protection. The artist, Alison Saar, known for repurposing discarded materials, breathes new life into what would otherwise be considered junk, reinforcing themes of renewal and transformation.

Adding to the immersive experience is the voice of poet Harriet Mullen, whose words flow through the gas pump, turning a mundane action into an introspective moment. The juxtaposition

of industrial elements with poetic expression creates a multi-layered interpretation of what a refueling station could be.

For some, the centerpiece resembles a queen's throne; for others, a simple chair. Art is open to interpretation, and this exhibit invites visitors to bring their own perspectives. The creative process itself is a collaboration—while artists have the vision, it takes an entire team of builders, welders, and craftsmen.

This installation is a testament to the power of art to shift perception. Is it possible for a gas station to be soul-filling? Here, it certainly is.

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