

# GERALD CLARKE: FALLING ROCK

ROAD SIGNS | PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM



In 2001, Gerald Clarke created his first series of road signs and mounted them along the main road of the Cahuilla Indian Reservation near Anza, California where he lives. These outdoor works take the familiar form of bright yellow metal warning signs. Rather than alerting drivers of impending danger such as "Falling Rock," Clarke's signs feature simple, often poetic phrases in Cahuilla and English.

Clarke's original six road signs were eventually destroyed, but he recreated them for this exhibition at Palm Springs Art Museum. They are currently installed in the museum's north and south parking lots.

**Kimul Hakushwe/The Door Is Open**, 2001/2019  
**Ivawen/Be Strong**, 2001/2019  
**Nesun 'E' Elqwish/I Am Sad**, 2001/2019

**Nesun 'Acha'ma/I Am Happy**, 2001/2019  
**Netaxmuqa/I Am Singing**, 2001/2019  
**Tawwal Memlakqa/It Is Thundering**, 2001/2019

Clarke has also been engaged by the City of Palm Springs Public Arts Commission to create 13 road signs at locations throughout the city.

James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center  
480 Tramview Rd.

- 1 Mesaxa (Rattlesnake)
- 2 Isil~ (Coyote)
- 3 Sikawet (Tree Squirrel)

Palm Springs Visitor Center  
2901 N. Palm Canyon Dr.

- 4 Séc-he/sound of boiling water
- 5 Temamka/North
- 6 Kichamka/South
- 7 Tamika/East
- 8 Qawika/West

The Wellness Park, Desert Healthcare District  
Corner of Via Miraleste and Tachevah

- 9 Atukul (Creosote)
- 10 Qas'ily (Sage)

Palm Springs Leisure Center and Pavilion  
401 S. Pavilion Way

- 11 Pa'ayal (Rattle)

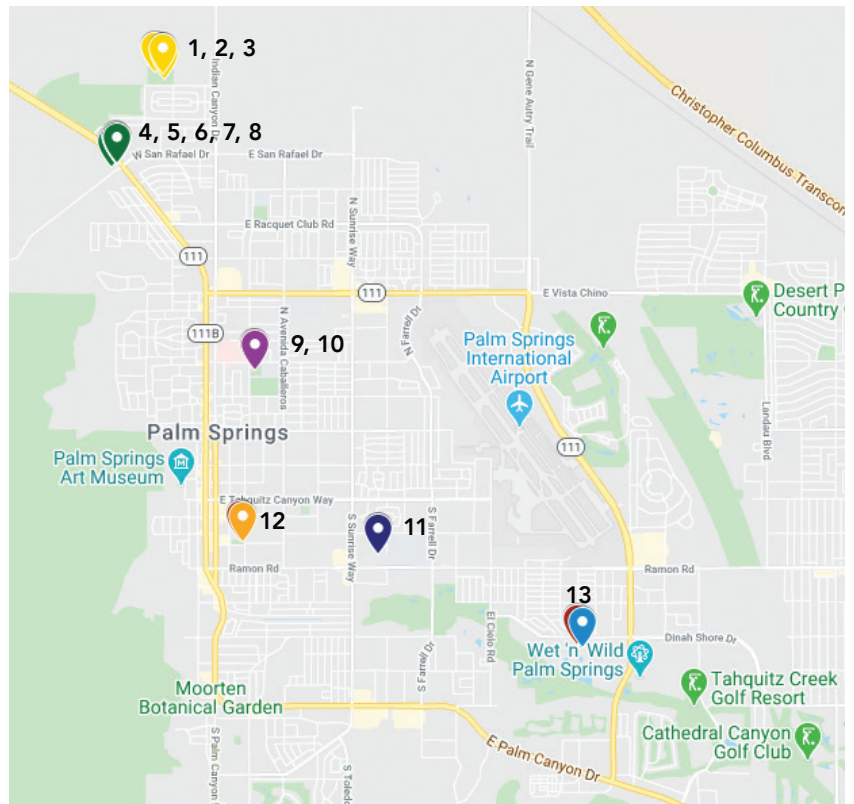
Baristo Park  
296 S. Calle Encilia

- 12 Kish (House)

Demuth Park  
4365 Mesquite Ave. - located south of  
Mesquite/Santa Cruz intersection

- 13 Maze

All works 2020.



Clarke has created several installations of his road signs throughout the United States. Each includes the language of the area's local tribal communities. For Palm Springs, located on ancestral Cahuilla territory, Clarke uses his native Cahuilla language as well as English.

*We acknowledge the original homelands of the Agua Caliente People. We pay our respect to the elders, both past and present, who have stewarded this land through generations since time immemorial.*



Palm Springs  
Art Museum

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