

The four pieces in Death Valley Cycle:

1. **Death Valley Calendar:** 31 short pieces that are programmed to play randomly, & loop in a continuously changing order. Each excerpt also has 4 or 5 possible random subtitles All are from recordings made in of each of the 12 months at Death Valley National Park.

2. **Biopsy:** CT scans and video/sound excerpts from Death Valley along with a description of my 2002 lung biopsy.

3. **Breathing/Dreaming/Salt/Sand:** After my third lung surgery, I often woke up from dreams with the feeling of being unable to breathe. Video is projected on a floor stand covered with salt and sand while eight combinations of audio are played. One video was recorded late at night under a full moon on the salt flats...the other under bright sun on the sand dunes.

4. **Racetrack Playa:** In 2009, I was diagnosed with carcinoma of the bladder. The Playa is among the more remote areas of Death Valley and is the site of large rocks that slide over the usually dry lake bed after rainstorms. The patters in the dried salt/earth here are similar to the surface of the bladder

I first traveled to Death Valley in March 1994 on my way to Manzanar. From Nov 2002 -June 2003, while recovering from five surgeries for lung and prostate cancer, I began to approach my experiences as landscape/soundscape at Death Valley.

Most of the audio was gathered using piezo disks that I have built and worked with since the 1970's. I often attach these to objects/plants to record sounds too soft for our ears. Picking up vibrations from inside materials, like wind blowing on plants and rocks, or wind blowing over the irregularities in the surface of salt flats seemed appropriate. I also embedded them into the salt flats and by attaching the disks to long needles. Inserting these into the salt, I was able to 'biopsy' the earth.

Lung cancer is usually discovered too late, or as in my case, found as an unintended result of another test. The process of diagnosis, treatment, healing, and recovery was an intense time in my life. Though it seemed to progress, at least medically, in linear fashion, there were times the experience was non-linear and even 'out of time.'

My caregivers faced parallel journeys of their own with a differing set of traumas. So, my deepest thanks to my family and friends whose love and support sustained me through this experience, and also to the medical professionals who provided care. My thanks extend especially to my spouse, Mona Higuchi, who accompanied me to countless medical appointments along with many trips to Death Valley.

This is the Monthly list of Pieces from Death Valley

Jan 05: Windharps, needles & performance, south of Badwater

Feb 04: Walking, amplified salt and microphones, Badwater

Mar 94: Three Salt walks, Badwater

Mar 05: Wildflowers, Jubilee Pass/Ashford Mill

Mar 09: Racetrack Playa

April 04: Salt walk with microphones, near Badwater

May 04: Salt webs/crystals & salt walk, Dante's Peak & Badwater

Jun 05: Dried plants, moonrise/sunset, near Salt Creek

July 05: Salt formations and wind, North of Badwater

Aug 05: FullMoonSaltWalk, & amplified desert holly near Badwater

Sep 05: CT scans, needles and salt, near West Side Hwy

Sep 10: Salt Formations, near West Side Hwy and Badwater Rd.

Oct 05: Creosote, wind and sand dunes near Stovepipe Wells

Nov 05: Mesquite & pickleweed, just across from Badwater

Dec 04: Windharps, needles & suture thread, South of Badwater

more info on the way.....