

Artist Statement - Lewis deSoto

The ICA's Focus Gallery will include three sculptures that pay homage to deSoto's father as well as a series of works on paper based on the 1920 novella by Herman Hesse titled "Klingsor's Last Summer." A series of photographs called BASHO (meaning "place" in Japanese) represents deSoto's first one-person photography exhibition in 1978. And using the paintings of Johannes Vermeer as inspiration for The Restoration, deSoto remodeled a garage to resemble a Vermeer interior. In it, he placed figures in contemporary and 17th century period garb surrounding a 1964 Pontiac Grand Prix to stage a scene that floats between photographic, painterly and cinematic forms.

DeSoto's conceptually driven artwork brilliantly combines the past and present, and posits about the future. Culling from a range of influences including anthropology, sociology, history, religion, literature, music and personal memory, he utilizes a variety of media to provide commentary on his personal histories as they apply to contemporary culture.