



Keeping Time

1993

oil and stopwatch case on panel

20'' x 20''

This painting is a document of my personal involvement in the artists event known as 'desert siteworks', a temporary week long

art installation event held in the Black Rock desert in the middle of the summer of 1993.

This was an offshoot from the Burning Man event, which by then was growing exponentially as a multitudinous desert party ...and so Bill Binzen - who was active as a photographer with burning man - became inspired to organise a smaller, purely art based event. Mainly installations and performances made up this site specific environment that took place at Trego hot springs, located at the eastern edge of the playa and near the railroad tracks. There turned out to be around 35 different artists involved who contributed a unique variety in and around this old favourite hot springs site. <https://williambinzen.com/desert-siteworks-05.html>

<http://talesofsfcacophony.com/desert-site-works/>

About the painting. Its structure fits an ongoing series of geometrically arched astronomical skies, that began from dream imagery originally seen prominent in this 1991 piece. <http://dean-gustafson.com/pre-ecliptic.html>

The scenery is about what I was doing with 'desert siteworks' ; playing polyrhythmically on my newly acquired doumbek, in my installation which was a large fully functional analematic sundial, while tripping out (quite lysergically literally during the full moon night) on the fabulously bizarre spectacle that abounded!

The title has multiple meaning, regarding the sundial, and playing a drum. All encapsulated in the astronomical essence of

the playa, and I brought a telescope!

There was a wonderful amount of creativity going on around the event zone, but that has been mostly documented elsewhere. I will mention what is included in the painting, which is the medicine wheel that someone in the group made from found objects. Subtle, and I liked that quality, so I included it.

And the cloud formations really did look that geometric!

This is owned by good friend Rango Keshavan, who got me involved with the practice of TM. And who truly groks the psychedelic powers of music, astronomy, and clear mindfulness.

This essay was typed by my eyes.

Dean Gustafson ; October 2020

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<http://dean-gustafson.com>

