

Hirshhorn Museum Acquires Major Jimmie Durham Sculpture

BY TAYLOR DAFOE | JULY 18, 2016



Jimmie Durham, "Still Life with Spirit and Xitle," 2007.
(César Cervantes.)

Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C., announced today that it has acquired a landmark work by artist Jimmie Durham.

A large-scale sculptural installation, "Still Life with Spirit and Xitle" features a basalt boulder with a smiley face on it, sitting atop of a crushed 1992 Chrysler Spirit. The title of the work, along with the material of the boulder, are a reference to the Xitle volcano, which erupted around 245-315 AD, demolishing the ancient city of Cuicuilco.

The work is the product of a larger performance, first executed in Mexico in 2007, in which the boulder was quarried by a crane from an archaeological site near the volcano, and subsequently dropped on the roof of the car. Following the drop, Durham painted a small smiley face on the rock.

"Still Life with Spirit and Xitle" will be installed indefinitely at the Hirshhorn's main entrance and will be on view beginning August 6.

Durham will have his first North American retrospective at the Hammer museum next year. After its run there, the exhibition will move on to the Walker in Minneapolis in June, and to the Whitney in November.