

PUBLIC ART

What's Up With the Candy-Colored Boulders Stacked in the Desert?



The art piece by a Swiss artist is made from "locally sourced" rocks

BY **BIANCA BARRAGAN** · MAY 11, 2016, 3:31P

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ELLIE KEMPER EXPERIENCES THE NEW BUICK.

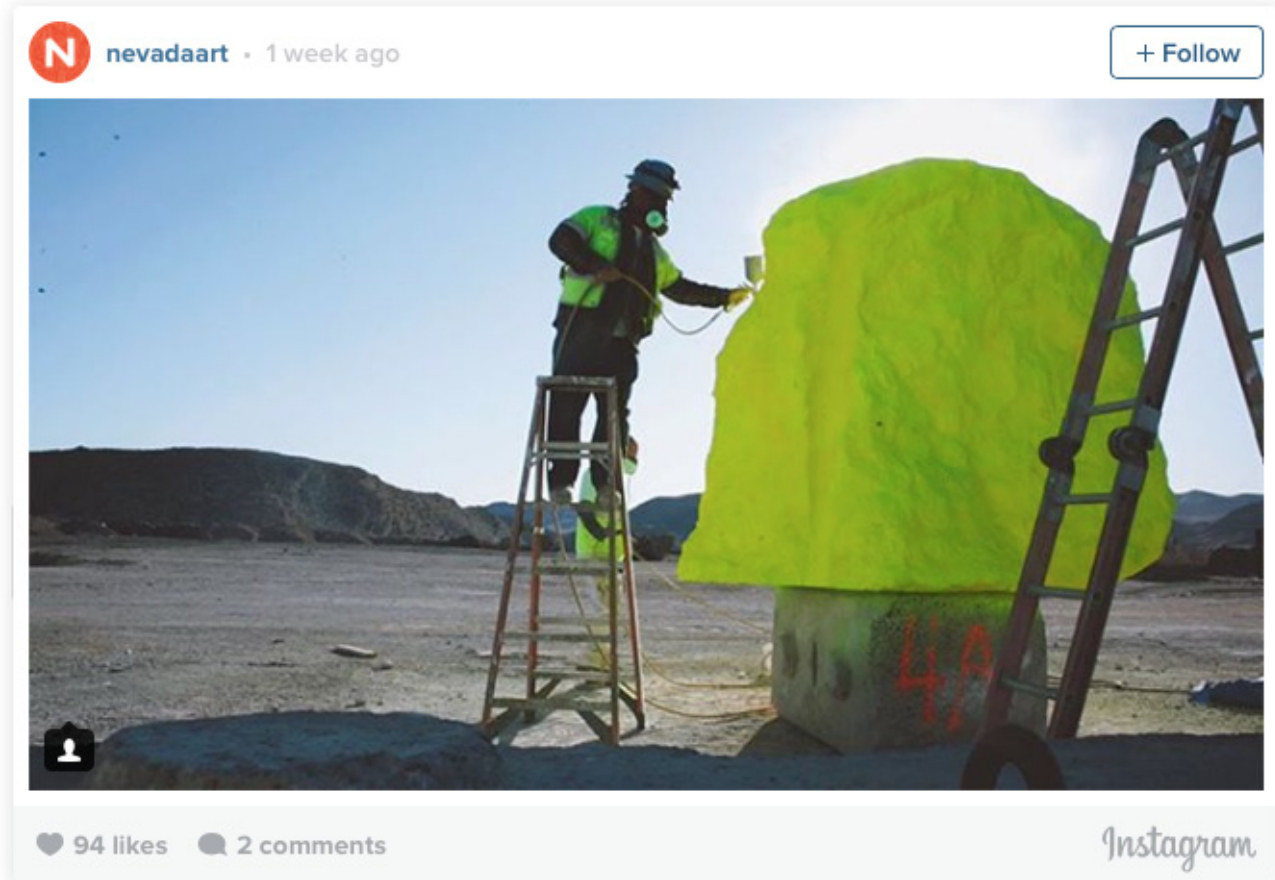
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EXPLORE CASCADA

ALL-NEW BUICK CASCADA

The advertisement features a woman with pink earmuffs smiling while driving a Buick Cascada. Below the image, the text reads "ELLIE KEMPER EXPERIENCES THE NEW BUICK." There are two orange buttons with white text: "WATCH MORE" and "EXPLORE CASCADA", each with a right-pointing arrow. At the bottom, there is a photo of a light blue Buick Cascada convertible and the text "ALL-NEW BUICK CASCADA".

Recently installed off I-15 about an hour outside of Las Vegas and officially open to the public today is this eye-catching collection of rocks. Called "**Seven Magic Mountains**," it looks like the marriage of *Honey, I Blew Up The Kid* technology and Fruity Pebbles that we never knew we needed, but what is it exactly?



According to its website, the project—the work of Swiss artist Ugo Rondinone—is made up of seven "totems" of brightly painted, "locally sourced" boulders that **weigh anywhere** from 20,000 pounds to 25 tons. The towers are placed about halfway between the desert towns of Jean and Sloan, Nevada, on land controlled by the Bureau of Land Management. Why there? The official site explains:

According to Rondinone, the location is physically and symbolically mid-way between the natural and the artificial: the natural is expressed by the mountain ranges, desert, and Jean Dry Lake backdrop, and the artificial is expressed by the highway and the constant flow of traffic between Los Angeles and Las Vegas.