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AROUND THE GALLERIES

Fresh, original voices in L.A.

L.A. Weekly hosts its first annual biennial at Track 16 Gallery.

'Six Continents' (SolwayJones)

By Christopher Knight, Times Staff Writer

Artwork that undergoes change, drip by drip

"Six Continents," the centerpiece of New York artist **Dove Bradshaw's** show at SolwayJones Gallery, is composed of six 100-pound mounds of salt. Glass laboratory funnels suspended above each one drip water onto the mounds, which are shaped like tiny volcanoes or gigantic ant hills.

All salt is a sodium chloride compound, but these six mounds have been collected from different continents. Residual local minerals yield chromatic variation, ranging from snow white to muddy brown, plus a surprisingly subtle range of gray, pink and even green. Water dripping on the mounds leeches into the slowly dissolving salt, causing further shifts in color and slight alterations of the conical shape.

Given the materials, obvious associations include global oceans and humanity's tears, while the hoary relationship between art and alchemy as magical markers for change gets yet another outing. However, the most appealing feature of "Six Continents" is its more sober quality as a global time clock — erosion, evaporation, reconstitution, constant transformation — which compresses geological eons into a rhythmic drip, drip, drip.

SolwayJones Gallery, 5377 Wilshire Blvd., (323) 937-7354, through Nov. 12. Closed Sundays and Mondays.