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AROUND TOWN
»» SAL PIZARRO

*An art exhibit
with real
curb appeal*

The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art will be putting one of its artists out on the street — literally — for the South First Friday art crawl tonight.

During the opening reception for **Lewis deSoto's** solo retrospective show, "Before After," the gallery will feature "Conquest" — the Napa-based artist's unique automobile/sculpture — parked outside for one night only. The piece, which draws on the legacy of the DeSoto car, conquistador **Hernando de Soto** and the artist himself, should be a thrill for art lovers and car buffs alike.

And while you're out there, check out deSoto's piece "Observatory," which is installed in the gallery's front windows as part of its rotating "Night Moves" exhibition.

MORE ART: Expect a good crowd tonight at the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, which is featuring the first exhibit of contemporary Chinese fiber art to travel to the United States.

There are 45 pieces on display, and half of the 48 artists from China will be on hand for tonight's reception. The museum is at 520 S. First St.