

Santa Fe Art Institute

For Immediate Release

March 18, 2010

Santa Fe Art Institute selected as Art Santa Fe 2010 Vernissage Gala Beneficiary!

What: Art Santa Fe 2010 **Vernissage**

Where: Santa Fe Convention Center

When: July 15, 2010 @ 5-8pm

How Much: \$100

The Santa Fe Art Institute is thrilled and honored to be selected as the beneficiary of the **Vernissage Gala** opening event for the decennial edition of Santa Fe's international art fair, **Art Santa Fe!** The 2010 Art Santa Fe fair will be held July 15-18, 2010 at the new Santa Fe Convention Center and will once again present great contemporary art from around the world.

The mission of the Santa Fe Art Institute is to foster the exploration of the interconnections of contemporary art and society, to enliven public discourse on art, and to support and nurture artists at all phases of their careers. Through the Visiting Artist Lecture Series, Artist and Writer Residency Program, Exhibitions, and Education and Outreach programming in the schools and the community, the SFAI seeks to bring artists and community members of all levels and experiences into the conversation. We understand the value of art in society, and seek to explore, expose, and exploit the places where art can make a difference – a real and meaningful difference. Whether it's lectures by amazing artists from around the globe or helping the youth community in Santa Fe realize the power and importance of their voices – the SFAI believes that art has the power to change the world.

The Santa Fe Art Institute was founded in 1985 by Pony Ault and the noted architect and artist William Lumpkins. The founders sought to provide the opportunity for intensive studio interactions for visual artists from New Mexico and around the globe. Richard Diebenkorn, SFAI's first Visiting Artist, became a major force in the establishment of SFAI. Many other renowned contemporary artists, such as John Baldessari, Elizabeth Murray, Susan Rothenberg, Donald Sultan, and Joel-Peter Witkin have participated in SFAI programs.

Annual Visiting Artist Lecture Series

Gathered around a common theme each year, SFAI's annual season of visiting artists and scholars brings the best in contemporary arts practice and discourse to Santa Fe. Public Lectures present ideas and images that expand the discourse and invite the audience to broaden their horizons. Lectures, presentations, and workshops excite, inform, and inspire creativity for all artists and writers in residence as well as community participants.

The Santa Fe Art Institute, an independent educational non-profit organization founded in 1985, is committed to programs that nurture artists and enhance and promote the arts as an essential element of American culture and society.

SFAI funding provided in part by The Burnett Foundation, The McCune Charitable Foundation, The Lannan Foundation, The Warhol Foundation, The Joan Mitchell Foundation, The Brindle Foundation, the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers' Tax and by New Mexico Arts, a Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

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Exhibitions

Exhibitions provide selected examples of the work of the visiting artists each season. Co-curated by the artists and the SFAI, these exhibitions allow the audience to spend time with the astounding array of works that challenge the viewer and demonstrate the power of art and the role of the artist in contemporary society.

Residencies

Since 2001, SFAI's Residency Program has provided studio space as well as gracious living accommodations and a supportive and productive environment for over 60 emerging and mid-career artists and writers each year to pursue work that broadens or extends their art and invites experimentation and risk. In addition, our location provides artists the opportunity to engage with a unique community of artists and writers within the program as well as develop relationships with artists, writers, curators, and gallerists working in Santa Fe, northern New Mexico, the Southwestern US, and beyond. SFAI believes that the responsibility of society to nurture and support their artists is fundamental, but extraordinary situations underscore our sense of responsibility. SFAI's New York City Emergency Artist Relief Residency initiative provided a means for artists of lower Manhattan to escape the foul air and incredible tension after the terrorist bombings of September 11, 2001. From October 2001 through June 2002 we provided emergency relief residencies to 130 artists from New York City. The SFAI re-introduced the Emergency Relief Residency program after hurricanes Rita and Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region and continues the program today to offer respite and retreat for artists and writers effected by all kinds of personal, social, political, or natural disasters.

Arts Education & Outreach Program

SFAI's Arts Education Program creates valuable ongoing partnerships between professional artists and Santa Fe's youth population. Through classroom residencies, community-based arts workshops and one-on-one mentorships, SFAI fosters the skills, interests and abilities of over 2,000 of our local youth each year. By connecting local teaching artists and young people, the SFAI seeks to instigate conversations about community, culture, and politics and allow young people to explore themselves, and the world in which they live, through the arts. SFAI teaches investigation and communication through the arts using a variety of artistic practices, including writing, drawing, painting, sculpture, performance, spoken word poetry, graffiti art, silk screening, and music production and more. We work both in the Santa Fe Public Middle and High Schools in academic and art classes, and outside of schools, partnering with a variety of social service and support organizations.

For more information please contact Michelle Laflamme-Childs at [mchilds@sfai.org](mailto:mchilds@sfaి.org) or call (505) 424-5050.

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