



## Santa Fe Art Institute

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Contact:  
Gabe Gomez  
ggomez@sfaï.org  
(505) 424 5050  
www.sfaï.org

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# SAFE HAVEN

**Sara Heitlinger and Franc Purg Residency**  
**March 3-May 31 2008**  
**SFAI**

**Todd Lester Lecture**  
**April 21**  
**Tipton Hall, 6 pm**  
**\$5 general public, \$2.50 students/seniors/SFAI members**

**Todd Lester Workshop**  
**April 22-April 25**  
**SFAI**  
**\$100 per day/Scholarships Available**

In it's unwavering support of all artists in need, the Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) welcomes visual artists Sara Heitlinger and Franc Purg for a three-month residency beginning in March.

The residency is a collaboration between SFAI and freeDimensional, an international human rights organization headquartered in New York. The organization receives referrals from human rights organizations like Human Rights Watch and Reporters Without Borders, and quickly accommodates artists caught up in dire situations by placing them in safe haven residencies around the world, one of which is SFAI.

Heitlinger and Purg are currently working on a body of work, *Privileged Tactics II*, featuring a series of projects that shed light on economic inequalities in industrialized and third world nations.

(More)

## **SFAI Sara Heitlinger, Franc Purg and Todd Lester 2-2-2-2-2**

*Privileged Tactics II* is a two-part multi-media series of artwork that focuses on a community of rubbish recyclers in Cairo, Egypt, the Zaballeen. They are a group of Coptic Christians who migrated to Cairo in the middle of the 20th century moving from the countryside to the cities to find work. The Zaballeen suffer racism and poor living conditions, and now their livelihood is under threat by the Egyptian Government, with plans to bring in international sanitation disposal companies, and in essence eradicate their communities. Heitlinger and Purg will continue their work on *Privileged Tactics II* at SFAI. This project was a UNESCO Digital Arts Award finalist in 2007.

In addition to the residency, Todd Lester, executive director of freeDimensional, will be at SFAI in April as part of "OUTSIDER: TOURISM, MIGRATION, EXILE," the 2008 lecture and workshop series that brings artists and writers from around the city and around the globe to explore how the arts reveal truth about the world. Todd Lester will talk about his organization and direct a workshop for those who want to get involved with human rights work and the arts.

In just a few years, with no paid staff, the freeDimensional grassroots collective has placed artists and writers at 25 artist's retreat centers around the world. Lester says, "historically, there's been a network of safe haven at artists communities for censored and persecuted artists, but never a formal administrative process for placement." He adds that artist communities, such as SFAI, have space and are eager to host artists needing safe haven, but lack the resources to identify and screen potential residents.

**For interview requests, images and artist bios for Sara Heitlinger, Franc Purg or Todd Lester, please contact Residency Director Gabe Gomez at (505) 424-5050 or [ggomez@sfai.org](mailto:ggomez@sfai.org).**