

For Immediate Release

January 16, 2008

Gay Block's Film

Camp Girls

Film Screening and Filmmaker Q&A

What: Screening of Gay Block's film *Camp Girls*
followed by Q&A w/ the filmmaker

Where: Tipton Hall

When: February 9, 2009 @ 6pm

How Much: \$5 General Public, \$2.50 students/seniors/SFAI members

In 2006, acclaimed visual artist Gay Block re-photographed and interviewed women who were girls in her 1981 series from Pinecliffe, a summer camp in Maine. ***Camp Girls*** (2008, 48 min) is a subtle documentary, which reveals volumes about gender, class and Jewish identity in America.

Block will inaugurate the Santa Fe Art Institute's 2009 visiting artist and lecture season **Memory: Shadow & Light - Art as individual/collective memory**

Without memory we have no past and therefore no way of contextualizing the present or the future -- our memories inform all aspects of life and without it, the world makes no sense. Our perception of the past, conversely, is always influenced by the present, which means that memory is fluid and changeable. Because memory is not just an individual, private experience but is also part of the collective domain, cultural memory has become a topic in every part of study and practice. Some artists see cultural memory as becoming more democratic, due to the rise of new media. Others see cultural memory as remaining concentrated in the hands of corporations and states.

As a portrait photographer, Gay Block began in 1973 with portraits of her own affluent Jewish community in Houston and later expanded this study to include South Miami Beach and girls at summer camp. Her landmark work with writer Malka Drucker, *RESCUERS: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust*, both a book and traveling exhibit, has been seen in over fifty venues in the US and abroad, including the Museum of Modern Art, NY, in 1992. In 2003 Block's 30-year portrait of her mother in photographs, video, and words, *Bertha Alyce: Mother exPosed*, was published by UNM Press and began as a traveling exhibit. Also published in 2003 by Skylight Paths is another collaboration with Drucker,

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.

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White Fire: A Portrait of Women Spiritual Leaders in America. In 2006, Block re-photographed women who were girls in her 1981 series from Camp Pinecliffe, twenty-five years before. Block's photographs are included in museums and private collections including MoMA New York, San Francisco MoMA, and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. To view examples of Block's work, you can visit her website at www.gayblock.com.

For more information, images, or interview requests, please contact Michelle Laflamme-Childs at mchilds@sfai.org or call (505) 424-5050.

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