

For Immediate Release

August 20, 2009

Internationally Acclaimed Visual Artist

James Drake

Lecture, Book Signing and Workshop

What: James Drake **Lecture + Book Signing**

Where: Tipton Hall

When: September 14, 2009 @ 6pm

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

What: James Drake **Workshop**

Where: Santa Fe Art Institute

When: September 15 & 16, 2009 @ 10am-4pm

How Much: \$200

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The Santa Fe Art Institute is pleased to bring you internationally acclaimed visual artist, **James Drake** as part of our 2009 Visiting Artist & Lecture season,

Memory: Shadow and Light | Art as individual/collective memory. Join us for his lecture on Monday, September 14th immediately followed by a sale and book signing of his first monograph, *James Drake*, published by University of Texas Press. Then, on Tuesday and Wednesday September 15th and 16th Drake will offer a workshop.

Renowned artist James Drake has presented his figurative, narrative art internationally, receiving early critical praise for his dramatic steel sculptures, drawings and video installations. Drake is one of those astoundingly versatile artists who has managed to create accomplished, distinctive work in a number of media. In the process, he has deployed a consistent vocabulary of images relating to art history, weaponry, the fine line between savagery and civilization, and life on the densely populated bilingual Juarez-El Paso border. Drake characterizes himself as a narrative artist, albeit one who is more interested in vignettes and fragments than in storytelling.

James Drake's work is in the permanent collection of over thirty museums, including the Albright-Knox Gallery, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. He has had over sixty one-person shows and has been invited to participate in more than one hundred group exhibitions. Drake is the recipient of a

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.

John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and two National Endowment for the Arts grants.

The University of Texas Press says of Drake, “An internationally acclaimed artist whose work has been honored with inclusion in both the Venice Biennale and the Whitney Biennial, James Drake has explored political, social, and universal themes through the media of sculpture, video, installation, photography, and drawing. *James Drake*, the first monograph devoted to the artist, surveys thirty-five years of Drake's work up to 2007.

Many of the works reproduced in *James Drake* reflect the artist's preoccupation with borders. Some have to do with the political border between the United States and Mexico and the inherent social and psychological tensions of people living in its extreme and unique environment. Other works explore the internal boundaries that people experience as a result of attitudes, prejudices, power, control, and arrogance. Jimmy Santiago Baca's narrative poem Huitzilopochtli, a personal response to Drake's work, provides a verbal counterpart to the artist's theme of border-crossing.

Another prominent subject in Drake's work is the relationship of people and animals—in particular, the animality that always lurks in human behavior. In his essay "Between Animality and Man," critic Steven Henry Madoff traces this subject through Drake's work and shows how Drake uses it to contrast the forces of intellect and instinct, light and darkness.”

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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