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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Santa Fe Art Institute receives
National Endowment for the Arts grant
to support 2013 Season of Programming,
*Contested Space***

Grant one of 817 NEA Art Works grants
totaling \$26.3 million in funding nationwide

Santa Fe, NM— National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Acting Chairman Joan Shigekawa announced today that Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) is one of 817 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Art Works grant. SFAI is recommended for a \$40,000 grant to support the 2013 season of visiting artist lectures, workshops, and exhibitions, *Contested Space*.

Historically, land was the great frontier and artists had a major role in shaping public understanding of those spaces. Now the frontiers of the past have become the “contested spaces” of the present. These new frontiers are no longer just physical space, but constantly assume new morphologies—local, national, transnational, geopolitical, social, cultural, physical, and virtual. Artists remain powerful commentators and describers of these spaces, presenting diverse perspectives and creative ways of engagement. From the vast openness of the internet to the closed, restrictive space of a jail cell, from urban center to wildlife preserve, artists make art that offers new perspectives: challenging assumptions, presenting new ideas, opening discourse and inviting the audience to engage around important issues. By presenting artists and their works through lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and residencies, we use the arts as a locus for new ways to navigate contemporary life.

Acting Chairman Shigekawa said, "The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support these exciting and diverse arts projects that will take place throughout the United States. Whether it is through a focus on education, engagement, or innovation, these projects all

contribute to vibrant communities and memorable opportunities for the public to engage with the arts."

Diane Karp, Executive Director of the Santa Fe Art Institute said, "The Santa Fe Art Institute is honored by this grant from the NEA in support of the 2013 "Contested Space" programming that has been developed to bring important ideas into the community by focusing on the arts and artists who engage them. Artists talks, exhibitions, community workshops, education and outreach, arts programs for young and old, and residencies for artists, writers and performers, all offer various ways that the broad and diverse audience in Santa Fe and beyond can participate. SFAI presents, supports and nurtures the arts as a positive social force. Please join us. We look forward to sharing these amazing programs with everyone."

In August 2012, the NEA received 1,547 eligible applications for Art Works grants requesting more than \$80 million in funding. Art Works grants support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. The 817 recommended NEA grants total \$26.3 million and span 13 artistic disciplines and fields. Applications were reviewed by panels of outside experts convened by NEA staff and each project was judged on its artistic excellence and artistic merit.

For a [complete listing of projects](#) recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at arts.gov.

About the Santa Fe Art Institute

The Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) founded in 1985, is an independent non-profit community-based arts center with international reach that presents and promotes art as a positive social force. SFAI fosters the exploration of contemporary art by enlivening public discourse on art, nurturing artists at all phases of their careers, and encouraging learning via the arts for people of all ages through five key program areas: 1) Ongoing residencies that provide support necessary for visual and new media artists, writers and poetry translators, performance artists and composers to complete work and explore new creative directions; 2) An annual season of lectures and workshops that stimulates discourse around important issues in the arts; 3) Small, focused exhibitions that challenge audience assumptions; 4) Publications; and 5) Community-based arts education and outreach that support creativity and innovation, provide an alternative pathway for learning, and expand the traditional skillset available to people young and old. For more information, visit

<http://www.sfai.org/index2.html>

<http://www.sfaiblog.org>

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