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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Santa Fe Art Institute Votes to Divest From Fossil Fuel Investments**

Santa Fe, NM – Today the Santa Fe Art Institute takes a bold step in solidarity with enlightened and progressive institutions nationwide to divest its fossil fuel investments.

This decision is in direct alignment with its mission - to present and support art as a positive social force. Community-based and international in scope, the Institute believes that art plays a central role in civic life and that artists' voices are essential to understanding our complex world. Focusing on issues of social justice, cultural freedom and environmental responsibility, SFAI has, for the past 12 years, been a leader in empowering the community to address critical change through the arts. "In light of the realities of Climate Change and when so many artists are urging actions, and striving for solutions, it is imperative that we support their efforts and act to make the changes that their work promotes," said Richard Martinez, Chairman of SFAI Board of Trustees.

"SFAI may be one of the first arts organizations in the country to take a stand that is consistent with the ideas and passions of artists engaged in forwarding environmental responsibility. It would be hypocritical to ask our audience to absorb the dangers of the unbridled consumption of fossil fuel when, as an institution we have not acted accordingly," Martinez concluded.

On Sunday, February 17, millions of people are expected to rally in Washington, D.C. and in cities large and small all over the US to call attention to the issues of climate change. SFAI and the diverse creative sector will be at our statehouse in Santa Fe joining with all Americans who care deeply about our future.

Photographer, Carlan Tapp (see accompanying press release), is an example of an artist who highlights the consequences of coal.

### **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>

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