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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Diane Karp To Leave Santa Fe Art Institute

Santa Fe, NM – The Board of Trustees of the Santa Fe Art Institute announced today that Executive Director Diane Karp is stepping down, effective June 30, 2013. Dr. Karp has served in this capacity since September 2001. Under her leadership, SFAI has become a dynamic presence in Santa Fe as well as a national and internationally acclaimed center for innovative work and collaboration.

When Dr. Karp arrived shortly after 9/11, she quickly launched SFAI's Emergency Relief Residency program to offer New York artists and writers living near Ground Zero, space to live and work at the SFAI. Later, she repeated the invitation for artists and writers impacted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita and other natural disasters. Her deep understanding and commitment to arts practitioners working in diverse disciplines have won wide recognition. *Flash Flood for a Living River*, a 2010, large-scale, community-wide art project to bring awareness to climate change, was documented by satellite and seen around the world. During Dr. Karp's tenure SFAI has presented groundbreaking programs of artists' lectures, workshops, and exhibitions, and has established important collaborations with organizations in the region, the nation, and abroad. Jenny Holzer, Adrian Piper, Laurie Anderson, Bill McKibben and many other important and innovative thinkers and practitioners have come to Santa Fe as SFAI Visiting Artists. She has expanded arts educational outreach programs serving young people in Santa Fe public schools, youth service centers, and in the youth development and detention centers in Albuquerque. Dr. Karp has been a tireless and eloquent advocate for the arts as an essential component in contemporary social dialogue.

"The SFAI Board of Trustees is deeply indebted to Dr. Karp for her knowledge, passion and dedication which has brought the Institute to the preeminence it enjoys today," commented Board Chairman, Richard Martinez. Details of the search for her successor will be announced shortly.

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