



# Santa Fe Art Institute

For immediate release  
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## THE PLAY OF LIGHT AND DARK, SILENCE AND SOUND, LANGUAGE AND IMAGE ARE THE SUBJECT OF MULTIMEDIA ARTIST GARY HILL'S WORK AND STUDIO WORKSHOP

**Santa Fe Art Institute Presents a Workshop and Lecture by Gary Hill as Part of Transmit+Transform, the 2004 Season of Programs Exploring Sound and Light in the Contemporary Arts**

**WORKSHOP: August 9–13, 2004**

**PUBLIC LECTURE: Monday, August 9, 6 pm at the James A. Little Theatre**

Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) is pleased to present a workshop by artist Gary Hill as part of **Transmit+Transform**, a season of interdisciplinary programs that explores the ways in which contemporary artists working in a variety of media engage sound and light.

***Abruptly I look up counting / a moth flies into my mouth / mistaking the numbed words for light . . .***  
**—excerpt from the spoken text in Gary Hill's *Midnight Crossing*, 1997**

Issues of perception and viewer interactivity and the thresholds between lightness and darkness, silence and sound, language and image, are of primary concern in much of Gary Hill's work. Rather than emerging as sets of dualities, these thresholds—as well as the gaps between absence and presence, real time and recorded time, viewed and viewing—are described by Hill as “resonating membranes” through which the artist and viewer (and sound and image) begin to merge.

With the thematic concerns of **Transmit+Transform** in mind, **Hill's studio workshop (August 9–13)** will examine conceptualization in various media and how issues of light and sound inform his work. Hill envisions the workshop as a basis for discussion and debate, and an opportunity to explore preconceived notions of “dualities” and the primacy of sight and image (“seeing is knowing”). Like his work, the workshop will be an ideal starting point for a truly collaborative exchange in which the outcome remains open-ended.

Hill will also give a **public lecture on Monday, August 9 at 6 pm in the James A. Little Theater** at the New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD), 1060 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe. Admission is \$5; \$2.50 for students with valid ID. For information, please call SFAI at 505-424-5050. (*The views presented at this event are not necessarily those of NMSD.*)

Critic Robert Mitterthal has written that Gary Hill's *Midnight Crossing*, like much of Hill's work, “strikes at something more basic than finite experience, presenting what might be revealed and/or obscured in the threshold between light and dark. What is remembered can be anything or nothing; what becomes clear is that light lies, it is a pure artifice—pure source.... Confining us to a dark room and assaulting

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our vision with flashes of light, Hill forces us to literally see our own blindness, and in doing so opens us to a pure voice, which allows us to reach, through an absolute exposure in language and knowledge, some sort of sensible thing. It is a kind of disturbing passivity that interests Hill—to construct or perform something that can be received directly.... Hill wants a radical exposure which can open a fissure between the viewer and the viewer's notion of self."

Gary Hill was born in Santa Monica, California, in 1951, and he currently lives in Seattle, Washington. Originally a sculptor, Hill began working with sound and video in the early 1970s and has produced a large body of both single-channel video works and mixed-media installations. His video, installation, and performance work has been presented at museums and institutions throughout the world, including solo exhibitions at the Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Guggenheim Museum SoHo, New York; Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Öffentliche Kunstsammlung, Basel; Museu d'Art Contemporani, Barcelona; and Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, among others.

Hill has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Rockefeller and Guggenheim Foundations, and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, most notably the Leone d'Oro Prize for Sculpture at the Venice Biennale in 1995 and a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Grant in 1998.

Gary Hill's workshop and lecture are presented as part of **Transmit+Transform**, the Santa Fe Art Institute's 2004 season, which includes artists' lectures, studio workshops, exhibitions, performances, and special events.

**Transmit+Transform** expands upon Santa Fe Art Institute's mission to explore the intersections of art and society by using artistic imagination to delve into issues, expand discourse, and enhance understanding of the role of the arts in contemporary society. SFAI is dedicated to the presentation of substantive programs that give unprecedented access to the ideas of contemporary thinkers in the arts, humanities, and sciences.

For more information on **Transmit+Transform**, or for studio workshop application, please visit SFAI's website at [www.sfai.org](http://www.sfai.org) or call 505-424-5050. Scholarships and sliding-scale fees are available. Residency space may be available for workshop participants for an additional fee. Santa Fe Art Institute is located at 1600 St. Michael's Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505.

**Transmit+Transform** is funded with support from Avalon Trust, Brindle Foundation, The Burnett Foundation, City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers' Tax, Getty Trust, M.A. Healy, Lannan Foundation, McCune Charitable Foundation, New Mexico Bank & Trust, Santa Fe Rotary Foundation, and Santa Fe Art Institute's Board of Trustees.