



Santa Fe Art Institute

For immediate release

June 9, 2004

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THE PLAY OF SPACE AND LIGHT ARE CENTRAL TO POET MEI-MEI BERSSENBRUGGE'S STUDIO WORKSHOP

Santa Fe Art Institute Presents a Workshop by Poet Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge as Part of Transmit+Transform, the 2004 Season of Programs Exploring Sound and Light in the Contemporary Arts

STUDIO WORKSHOP: July 19–23, 2004

PUBLIC LECTURE: Friday, July 23, 6 pm, Tipton Hall

Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) is pleased to present a workshop by Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge 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.

Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge will lead workshop participants in the pursuit of the visual poetic of language. Of her studio workshop, she writes, "Space and light in New Mexico. Light, an energy form. Then, would space, volume, sky, the vessel light fills be an equal energy? The light of personal expression and the vessel of art, poetry? My workshop will use these ideas of energy to mentor ongoing writing and to generate new work."

Berssenbrugge will also present her work at a **public lecture on Friday, July 23 at 6 pm in Tipton Hall** on the College of Santa Fe campus. Admission is \$5; \$2.50 for students with valid ID.

Berssenbrugge was born in Beijing, China, and grew up in Massachusetts. In the early 1970s she was active in the women's rights and multicultural movements that gave voice to the stories of women and immigrants, and she was the first contemporary Chinese woman poet to publish in the United States. She has worked with pioneering Asian-American cultural organizations, and collaborations with other artists on theatre and dance performances and artists' books have been an important part of her work.

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Her books include *The Heat Bird* (Burning Deck) and *Random Possession* (I. Reed Books), both of which received American Book Awards; the critically acclaimed *Empathy* (Station Hill Press), which received a PEN West Award; and *The Four Year Old Girl*, which won a Western States Book Award. Berssenbrugge is also committed to her work with Kelsey St. Press—a collective that specializes in collaborative projects by women and published *Endocrinology*, a book project with artist Kiki Smith that won the Asian-American Literary Award in 1997. Berssenbrugge has taught at Brown University, Naropa, and the Institute of American Indian Art. She lives in New Mexico and New York City with artist Richard Tuttle and their daughter.

Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge's studio 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 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.