



Santa Fe Art Institute

For immediate release

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KOMAR & MELAMID COME TO SANTA FE

Collaboration Between Santa Fe Art Institute, FOCA and Museum Of Fine Arts Includes Studio Workshop & Lecture and Major Museum Exhibition

STUDIO WORKSHOP: *East & West: Visual Symbols of Spirituality*
June 7–11, 2004, SFAI

LECTURE: *A Story of Collaborations*
June 7, 2004, SFAI

EXHIBITION at the Museum of Fine Arts
July 9–October 3, 2004

Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) is pleased to present a collaboration with the Museum of Fine Arts and artists Komar & Melamid 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.

Komar & Melamid will offer *East & West: Visual Symbols of Spirituality*, a **studio workshop from June 7 to June 11** that expands upon the artists' most recent projects devoted to art as a religion and to the synthesis of irony and spirituality. Workshop participants will explore the relationship between heraldry and mandalas as spiritual symbols in Eastern and Western cultural traditions with an aim toward creating their own personal meditative mandala.

The artists will also give a **public lecture on June 7 at 6 pm** as part of the collaboration with the Friends of Contemporary Art and Museum of Fine Arts at the St. Francis Auditorium in Santa Fe. Tickets are \$5; \$2.50 for students with identification. As Artists-in-Residence at SFAI through June 19, Komar & Melamid will welcome the public to view new work in progress for the upcoming Museum of Fine Arts exhibition at an Open Studio event (*date to be announced*).

Vitaly Komar and Alex Melamid were born in Moscow in 1943 and 1945, respectively. Both artists attended the Moscow Art School, and from 1962 to 1967, the Stroganov School of Art & Design. Their collaboration began in the mid 1960s, and in 1967 they initiated Sots Art—their unique version of Soviet Pop and Conceptual Art that combines the principles of Dadaism and Socialist Realism. Post-modernist pioneers, they have collaborated on wide-ranging conceptual projects ranging from painting and performance to installations, public sculpture, photography, music, and poetry.

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They gained international recognition through an exhibition at Ronald Feldman Fine Arts in New York in 1976; and in 1981, they were the first Russian artists to receive a National Endowment for the Arts grant. Since then, their work has been exhibited at major institutions worldwide including the Brooklyn Museum of Art (1989), Venice Biennial (1999), the Kawamura Memorial Museum of Art (Japan, 2003). Notorious dissidents before they left the Soviet Union, the artists have since been called "exasperating expatriates" for their travesties of Socialist Realism.

Komar & Melamid's studio workshop and lecture are presented as part of **Transmit+Transform**, 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. The Art Institute 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. The Santa Fe Art Institute is located at 1600 St. Michael's Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505.

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