



Santa Fe Art Institute

For immediate release
July 16, 2004

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TRADITIONAL ARTS AND “ARTISTIC LICENSE” TO BE EXPLORED IN ARTIST RON COOPER’S WORKSHOP AND LECTURE

Santa Fe Art Institute Presents a Studio Workshop and Public Lecture by Artist Ron Cooper as part of Transmit+Transform, the 2004 Season of Programs Exploring Sound and Light in the Contemporary Arts

STUDIO WORKSHOP: AUGUST 16–20, 2004

Public Lecture: Monday, August 16, 6 pm, Tipton Hall

Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) is pleased to present a workshop and lecture by Ron Cooper 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.

Ron Cooper’s multifaceted work represents the artist's ongoing interest in the metaphors of transformation—from the tantric arts of Asia to the pre-conquest Zapotec, Maya, Olmec, and Aztec ceremonial and religious arts. Cooper has collaborated with many contemporary Mexican artisans, drawing upon their skills and traditions to create works using diverse media: copper, found objects, oil, clay, stone, wood, tin, glass, paper, textiles, and alcohol. Cooper created his most recent works in the Mexican state of Oaxaca, where he collaborated with indigenous craftspeople whose rich celebrations of life maintain a primal closeness with the ancient gods. Honoring dualities—female and male, presence and shadow—Cooper continues his studies of this rich cultural heritage in his work. During the studio workshop (August 16–20), participants will explore the dazzling natural beauty of silver, stone, and abalone as materials for contemporary artmaking practices, as well as the fabrication of these materials.

Cooper will present his work at a **public lecture on Monday, August 16 at 6 pm at Tipton Hall** on the College of Santa Fe campus. Admission is \$5; \$2.50 for students with valid ID. For information, please call 505-424-5050 or visit www.sfai.org.

Cooper has been featured in important group shows and solo exhibitions around the world since 1967. His work is included in many prestigious public collections, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Fort Worth Museum of Contemporary Art; the Chicago Art Institute; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Kaiser Wilhelm Museum, Krefeld, Germany; and the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris. He has also been featured in many group shows and one-person exhibitions in the United States, Europe, and Japan.

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Cooper prefers to be recognized for his "artistic license"—cross-pollinating cultures, materials, and technique. His continuing interest in light and vessels, void and volume, transforms his art into information which allows the spectator "to turn the mind on to itself and its emotions."

Cooper'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.