



# Santa Fe Art Institute

For immediate release  
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Contact:  
Jennifer Schlesinger  
jschlesinger@sfaai.org  
(505) 424 5050

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## **SANTA FE ART INSTITUTE PRESENTS CLOTHESLINE: ART, CLOTHING, IDENTITY, A 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON THAT EXPLORES THE ROLE OF CLOTHING IN THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS**

"It's the clothes that make the man (or woman)" is a figure of speech that may best describe the upcoming season at Santa Fe Art Institute. *Clothesline: Art, Clothing, Identity*, the 2005 schedule of lectures, studio workshops and exhibitions will focus on the myriad aspects of clothing, its function as metaphor or surrogate, its commentary on social attitudes, and how clothes can reveal or conceal identity. Focusing on the visual arts and other disciplines, world-renowned visiting artists and writers will explore performance, installation, painting, sculpture, photography, video, as well as the underlying principals of camouflage, in pursuit of the secrets and mysteries encapsulated in clothing.

SFAI Executive Director Diane Karp explains, "In art, we have stunning portraiture that tells us volumes about the hierarchy and social importance of the sitters, but it is not their likeness that distinguishes them. It is often their clothing or costumes that tell legions about who they are: their importance, social position and power. Throughout the history of art and securely into the present, clothing, costumes, uniforms and other details of dress provide a rich and complex discussion of social norms as well as the person presented."

From the meticulously constructed miniatures of artist Charles LeDray, and the bluntly-stated facts of gender discrimination presented by the GuerillaGirls, to the keenly described specifics of society captured by photographer Nikki S. Lee, and the irreverent performances of Martha Wilson, *Clothesline* pokes and probes at our relationships to fabric, clothing, fashion, and identity. (Complete list of visiting artists, and their bios are included in attached brochure).

Painters, sculptors, performers, photographers, writers, fashion and set designers, curators and critics will address the many ways in which clothing is employed in contemporary art, and SFAI offers opportunities to participate in this exploration—through studio workshops where visiting artists share their own process and ideas, as well as provide intensive interaction and meaningful critiques; an engaging series of lectures about clothes, costumes, uniforms and other details of dress; and changing exhibitions that highlight the work of the visiting artists, artists in residency, and other visual arts. (Complete schedule is included in attached brochure).



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To further this marvelous foray into the world of clothing and art, SFAI's 20th anniversary celebration will feature an exciting fashion show on June 23, 2005. This multi-faceted evening includes a preview reception, a spectacular runway show featuring one-of-a-kind fashions, jewelry by international artisans, and art-to-wear, followed by a rockin' dance party. The event will kick off the Southwest Design Conference, a three-day, citywide event highlighting Architecture, Art and Design, sponsored by *Western Interiors and Design* magazine.

Featured in the fashion show are major designers Han Feng, Mariann Boston, Alice Wu and Moriah Carlson of Feral Childe, Native Americans Virgil Ortiz, Pillar Agoyo, Patricia Michaels, and Tsosie-Gaussoin who use their traditional designs in cutting-edge contemporary expressions and renowned artists and Santa Feans Nic Nicosia, Erika Wanenmaker, Jennifer Joseph, Gregory Lomayesva and Ligia Bouton.

An enthusiastic committee of professionals in major design disciplines, fashion, film, hair and accessories has come together to handle the myriad details of the event, with assistance from Santa Fe Community College architecture, interior design and fashion staff and students. (Committee list is included).

To learn more about how you can explore the rich landscape of Art, Clothing and Identity in contemporary culture, and celebrate the 20th anniversary season at Santa Fe Art Institute, log on to [sfai.org](http://sfai.org), or call 505.424.5050.

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Santa Fe Art Institute's mission is 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.