



Santa Fe Art Institute

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Contact:
Jennifer Schlesinger
jschlesinger@sfai.org
(505) 424. 5050

Santa Fe Art Institute Hosts an Open Studio with Artist-in-Residence, Nancy DeClue

**Tuesday, May 24, 2005
4-6pm, SFAI 3rd Gallery, Free**

Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) Artist-In-Residence, Nancy DeClue will present an open studio on Tuesday, May 24, 2005 from 4-6pm in SFAI's third gallery. DeClue is on a two-month residency at SFAI and will present her current work, *Small Wonders*.

Nancy DeClue believes that artwork represents the artists soul, and with quiet, receptive viewing, you can perceive the forces that drive the artist, the forces primal to their existence. The forces that are driving this artists current work, *Small Wonders*, are the loss of species and natural resources. The work is a visual introduction to these concepts viewed through the veil of 'civilization'.

She says of the work, This project was inspired by three books: Barbara Kingsolver's "Small Wonder", Al Gore's "Earth in the Balance" and Rachael Carson's "Silent Spring." Instead of a world of tolerance and cooperation, I find one manically seeking immediate gratification through consumption. A culture that defines the worth of any and all things in monetary and profit reference only. A culture that seems bent on methodically destroying the ecosystems, resources, and species that we are in fact dependent upon. Somehow we seem unwilling or unable to halt this spiral. Fulfillment of personal interests has become a theology. Nature and her resources have become a mere currency. The miracle of life and the mystery of the gods are no longer contained in a grain of sand, a drop of dew, or whale song. We can no longer assume that if we destroy it, technology can recreate it. We can no longer assume that our children, and their children can heal the damage that we are doing. If we could hear with our feeble ears the combined cries of the species that we are pushing to extinction, it might break our hearts open to the miracle of life in all forms. But we cannot hear this cry. But we have art."

The resultant work is two-dimensional piece. A large relief (linoleum) print is a landscape design that includes references to the resources and species being consumed at non sustainable rates. This print will be viewed through an abstracted representation of civilization. The artist hopes the viewer will contemplate the beauty of the natural world, appreciate the curves and design of the civilized world, and perhaps begin to understand the juxtaposition of the two.

A native of Missouri, Nancy DeClue is self taught in most mediums and will work in whichever medium an image demands. In the case of *Small Wonders*, linoleum block print is used for its visual impact. She says of herself, "I am tactile in nature, and see things as line/form/pure emotion in color. Often the tiniest detail of Nature shows me in its perfection, the form and structure of our universe."

Nancy DeClue's SFAI residency was partially sponsored by the Mill Foundation and she is a proud recipient of an award from the Puffin Foundation Ltd.