



# Santa Fe Art Institute

For immediate release  
March 18, 2005

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## **SANTA FE ART INSTITUTE HOSTS AN OPEN STUDIO WITH ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE, WRITER AND FILM ARTIST ELIZABETH BLOCK AND PAINTER EVRI KWONG**

**Thursday, April 21, 2005, 5-7pm, Free  
Film Screening by Elizabeth Block at 6:30pm**

Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) Artists-In-Residence, Writer and Film Artist Elizabeth Block and Painter Evri Kwong, will present an open studio on Thursday, April 21, 2005 from 5-7pm in SFAI's third gallery. Elizabeth Block will present a screening of her two current films at 6:30pm. Block and Kwong have been on a joint three-month residency at SFAI since February 15, 2005.

During the open studio, Elizabeth Block will be exhibiting a surprise (unrelated) 16mm filmstrip installation, will read from her novel, and screen two short films and Evri Kwong will be presenting his paintings.

Elizabeth Block and Evri Kwong, while only occasionally produce joint art projects, always engage in a collaborative process. While most collaborations emphasize the final product, their working side by side offers a different kind of ephemeral art gesture. Evri Kwong is a painter (with an extensive background in performance) and Elizabeth Block is a writer and a film artist (who also enjoys audio). Evri is naturally drawn to metaphor. Elizabeth leans toward mixed-metaphor. Together these contrasts prove vital for their mutual exchange and journey in the often hallucinatory yet stubborn path of art making.

While in residence at the the Santa Fe Art Institute, Block has been working on various projects. She began the writing of a new novel, *Haste, Make Slowly*, a dyslexic-versed un-adaptation of (a post-9/11) Othello, who apprehends a narrative parasite, Ludwilla Haste, created from the meanderings of open source computer code. She says of the project, "This idea impatiently came to me, as I waited for my crashed computer to return from its repair netherland."

In Santa Fe, she has edited previously recorded material into a short audio-visual excerpt of the novel, entitled, *Flip, Frame, Burn*. From this short video and from 16mm film and x-ray scans, she has culled and compiled more than 60 still images for the book, including the cover image. Block has invited her partner, artist Evri Kwong, to contribute close to 30 sharpie pen drawings to this book.

While in residence at SFAI, Evri Kwong has created paintings with the content taken from what's presented in the news. He says of the work, "I am doing my own reporting in a surreal narrative context. The larger whole is often fraught with conflict and contradiction, exposing both the candy coated surfaces and dark circumstances of contemporary America." Portions of canvases are painted with lush colored serene landscapes, while other parts are composed of Sharpie permanent marker drawings in a storyboard manner. He uses a multiple image structure within one canvas to emphasize how contrasting images and color create a larger whole.

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The Santa Fe Art Institute, an independent educational non-profit organization founded in 1985, is committed to programs that nurture artists and enhance and promote the arts as an essential element of American culture and society. Visit our website at [www.sfai.org](http://www.sfai.org).



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Evri Kwong has exhibited his paintings and drawings in solo and group gallery and museum shows across the United States, in Mexico, and in Europe, in such places as the Robert Berman Gallery at Bergamot Station, Bucheon Gallery, San Jose Museum, Heidi Cho Gallery, The Alternative Museum, Asian American Art Centre, Catharine Clark Gallery, and at the Triton Museum. His paintings and drawings have been extensively reviewed in magazines and newspapers, and he is the recipient of awards such as a Djerassi Resident Artists Program Alumni Fellowship, a Skowhegan Fellowship, and he is the recipient of 2004-2005 Pollock-Krasner Award. His paintings are included in a number of collections across the United States, including the Rene Di Rosa Preserve, Djerassi Foundation, Thomas Patchett, Diane Lane, and the collection of Roselyne C. Swig. He has taught painting and drawing at the San Francisco Art Institute, California College of the Arts, San Francisco State University, and elsewhere.

Elizabeth Block is writer and a film artist. Her first novel, *A Gesture Through Time* (which has been already been released as a 50 set limited edition with art by Donna Cameron) is forthcoming from Spuyten Duyvil Press (NYC). Her creative and critical writings have been published or is forthcoming in numerous print and internet journals such as *Chain*, *TDR*, *Alt-X*, *ONTHEBUS*, *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, *Chimera Review*, *Drunken Boat*, and *Camerawork*. Her digital sound art (with Warren Burt) has been broadcast and performed in the United States and Australia, for example on *Eclectic Seizure Radio*, *Urbana, Ill.* She is founding editor (with Evri Kwong) of the micro-press, Press Inflammatory Lips, which has (under the radar) published her film text, *Strewnpackedcinderwhateverlight* and a literary-art anthology, *Documents Between*. Her short films, which are distributed by Canyon Cinema (San Francisco) have been screened throughout the United States and in Canada, at such venues as Anthology Film Archives, San Francisco Cinematheque, Harvard Film Archive, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Madcat International Women's Film Festival, Athens International Film and Video Festival, and Antimatter Film Festival. She is the recipient of various awards including a Djerassi Resident Artists Program Tread of Angels Fellowship, fiscal sponsorship (for writing) from Intersection for the Arts, a Heekin Foundation first national novel award finalist, Starcherone Fiction Prize honorable mention, and a Sigma Xi Scientific Society grant for ethnographic research.

Elizabeth Block and Evri Kwong's Residency was sponsored by the Mill Foundation and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation.