



# Santa Fe Art Institute

For immediate release  
April 13, 2004

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## **SANTA FE ART INSTITUTE PRESENTS LECTURE and WORKSHOP BY ARTIST SENG NENGUDI AS PART OF THE 2005 SEASON— *CLOTHESLINE: ART, CLOTHING, IDENTITY***

**One of the most important American artists whose work engages issues of clothing, body parts and identity, Senga Nengudi's performance-based sculptures and installations explore aspects of the human body in relation to ritual, philosophy, and spirituality.**

**LECTURE:** Monday, May 16, 6 p.m.  
Tipton Hall, 1600 St. Michaels Drive  
\$5.00 General Public / \$2.50 Students and Seniors

**WORKSHOP:** May 16-20, Santa Fe Art Institute  
505.424.5050 for information and registration  
[www.sfai.org](http://www.sfai.org) to download application

*Clothesline: Art, Clothing, Identity*, the 2005 schedule of lectures, studio workshops and exhibitions will focus on the details of clothing, its function as metaphor, surrogate, and how clothes can reveal or conceal identity. Utilizing 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.

### **UPCOMING WORKSHOP: May 16-20, 2005 Senga Nengudi**

Participants will begin the workshop by sharing an item from a family ancestor (photo, pipe, quilt, heirloom, hat, shawl, etc.) as well as sharing their own work with the collective. This will begin a cultural search into body image, inner landscapes and forms of meditative sand mappings, constructions, sketches and paintings.

Installation and performance will be used to expand and deepen the visual experience and connection of body and soul. The ephemeral nature and focus on process that signals Senga's work will be emphasized throughout the workshop. Group discussions and studio time will concentrate on permanence and impermanence, attachment to the known and humans as ephemera.

Call for application at 424-5050, or download at [www.sfai.org](http://www.sfai.org). Scholarships available.



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## **UPCOMING LECTURE: May 16, 2005**

Senga Nengudi will also present her work at a public lecture on May 16 at 6 pm in Tipton Hall on the College of Santa Fe campus. Admission is \$5; \$2.50 for students with valid ID.

## **Senga Nengudi Biography**

Born in Chicago, raised in Los Angeles and living in the '70s in New York City with a year of foreign study in Tokyo, Japan, Nengudi presently resides in Colorado. She received her MA in Sculpture and her BA in Art and Dance from California State University at Los Angeles. Nengudi's African/African-American heritage insists on responding to the moment, making due with what is at hand and to move through survival to a thriving status with the skills of improvisation and prodding perseverance. Senga Nengudi's performance-based sculptures and installations explore aspects of the human body in relation to ritual, philosophy, and spirituality. In the 1960s and 1970s, Nengudi's avant-garde work helped bring traditional African forms into the mix of Western modernism. Nengudi coaxes form out of ordinary nylon stockings by pulling, twisting, and knotting them to create pendulous sacks or tautly outstretched limbs. These bulging, flesh-toned, anthropomorphized abstractions suggest the resilience of the human body. Like molted snakeskins, they retain the "residue" of the body and the "energy" of the wearer, suggesting the fragility and sensuality of flesh itself.

In September 2003, Nengudi exhibited in a solo show at Thomas Erben Gallery, "Repondez S'il Vous Plait" - "The Panty Hose Pieces 1975-77". These seminal pieces first exhibited at Linda Goode-Bryant's legendary Just Above Midtown Gallery in the late '70s demonstrate the toll life may take on the body and the psyche. She says of her work, "I am working with nylon mesh because it relates to the elasticity of the human body. From tender tight beginnings to sagging end...the body can only stand so much push and pull until it gives way, never to resume its original shape. After giving birth to my own sons, I thought of Black wet-nurses suckling child after child - their own as well as those of others, until their breasts rested on their knees, their energies drained. My works are abstracted reflections of used bodies."

Recent exhibitions include: "Prospect Lake," at Phototroph Gallery, Colorado Springs, CO; "Double Consciousness: Black Conceptual Art Since 1970," at the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, TX; "54th Carnegie International 2004-05," Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA; "Rebaudengo," in Torino, Italy; and "Love Supreme," in Rennes, France. Her work is in numerous private and public collections including the Carnegie Museum of Art and the Studio Museum in Harlem. In addition, Nengudi teaches Art History/Ethnic Studies/Women Studies/Studio-Sculpture/Installation at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

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.