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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHAT

The Santa Fe Art Institute's curated season,
Comfortzone and the Disappeared Collaborative Project present

Junta: Innovation and the Latino Voice
Poetry by Valerie Martinez, Gabe Gomez,
Griselda Castillo, Sheryl Luna and J. Michael Martinez

WHEN

Friday, October 26

WHERE

Tipton Hall, College of Santa Fe Campus

HOURS

6 pm

HOW MUCH

Reading: \$5 General Public, \$2.50 Students,
Seniors and SFAI Members

Junta: Innovation and the Latino Voice showcases the country's most innovative and experimental Latino writers and artists working to break preconceived and static notions of their identity and work. Latino writers have historically embraced experimentation of form and craft as a way to explore their culture. Interestingly, the majority of Latino writing published in the United States is often formulaic and derivative of a well defined and accepted Latino experience. Rarely if ever does the writing express the immense diversity of philosophies and aesthetic practiced by artists into the Latino community. In short, the notion of an American Latino avant-garde is virtually non-existent.

An historic demonstration of a community-wide arts initiative of vital relevance to Northern New Mexico and beyond, the Disappeared Collaborative Project, informed by the political upheavals in Latin American over the last thirty years, will demonstrate the power of artistic expression to evoke the materiality and humanness of real lives and to involve audiences in a process of active remembrance. Organizations collaborating in the Disappeared include Center for Contemporary Arts CCA Cinematheque, College of Santa Fe / Documentary Studies Program, College of Santa Fe / Marion Center for Photographic Arts, Institute of American Indian Arts Museum, Lannan Foundation, National Hispanic Cultural Center, Santa Fe Art Institute, SITE Santa Fe.

Under the theme "Comfort Zone" SFAI brings to Santa Fe an outstanding group of artists and writers whose practice focuses on the role of the arts in activism: social, cultural, and environmental. For more information on the >COMFORTZONE< series, workshop scholarships please visit SFAI's website at www.sfai.org or call 505 424-5050. This series is partially funded by the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers' Tax. It is made possible in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

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The Santa Fe Art Institute explores the intersections of contemporary art and society through artist and writer residencies, public lectures and workshops, exhibitions, and educational outreach.
Visit our website at www.sfai.org.



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Writer's Biographies

Valerie Martínez's first book, *Absence, Luminescent*, won the Larry Levis Prize and a Greenwall Grant from the Academy of American Poets. Her second book, *World to World*, was published by University of Arizona Press. Most recently, Sutton Hoo Press, a literary fine press in Minnesota, has produced *A Flock of Scarlet Doves*, a limited edition book of Martínez's translations of the Uruguayan poet Delmira Agustini, with lino-cuts by noted artist Adrián Tió. Her poems have appeared in many journals, including *Parnassus*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Luna*, *The Bloomsbury Review*, *Solo*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *The Colorado Review*. Her anthology publications include, *The Best American Poetry 1996*, *American Poetry: Next Generation*, *New American Poetry: A Breadloaf Anthology*, and *Touching the Fire: Fifteen Poets of Today's Latino Renaissance*. Along with Joy Harjo and Gloria Bird, she edited the anthology, *Reinventing the Enemy's Language: Contemporary Native Women's Writing of North America*. Valerie Martínez is one of twelve poets to be featured in, *Poetas y Pintores: Artists Conversing with Verse*, a multi-disciplinary initiative funded, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts. She teaches at the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico.

Gabe Gomez is currently the Residency Director at the Santa Fe Art Institute where he was a resident in 2005. He received a BA in creative writing from the College of Santa Fe and an MFA in creative writing from St. Mary's College of California. He is a poet, playwright, and music journalist. He has taught English at the University of New Orleans, Tulane University, the College of Santa Fe and the Institute of American Indian Arts. He is the music columnist for the *Santa Fe Reporter* and his first book of poetry *The Outer Bands* won the Andres Montoya Poetry Prize and was published in 2007 by the University of Notre Dame Press.

Sheryl Luna is an accomplished poet and writer whose work has appeared in literary journals, including *The Georgia Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Kalliope*, and *Notre Dame Review*. Her book *Pity the Drown Horses* Luna won the 2004 winner of Andres Montoya Poetry Prize from the University of Notre Dame. She has been a finalist for the National Poetry Series book awards, as well as the Perugia Press Intro Award for women poets. Her her work is forthcoming in an anthology from University of Arizona Press. She currently teaches at the Metropolitan State College of Denver in Colorado.

J. Michael Martinez lectures at the University of Northern Colorado. He is winner of the Five Fingers Review Poetry Prize and has received fellowships from George Mason University. He has two chapbooks: "Pinned to a Quail's Wing" and, with James Belflower and Anne Heide, "The Care For Which There Is." His poems and reviews have appeared in *New American Writing*, *Five Fingers Review*, *The Colorado Review*, *Xantippe*, *Crab Orchard Review* and others. Poems may be currently found in *Practice*, *New American Writing*, and *Phoebe*.

Griselda Castillo is a recent graduate of the College of Santa Fe's creative writing program.