



Santa Fe Art Institute

For immediate release
February 1, 2007

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The **Santa Fe Art Institute** is pleased to announce the 2007 Poetry Translator Residency selections. Elena Rivera and Ann Cefola are the recipients of this year's award supported by the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry.

Elena Rivera was born in Mexico and spent her childhood in Paris. She later moved to New York City with her parents as a teenager. In this multi lingual upbringing she has become an accomplished poet and translator. Her translation project is to continue working on translating poems by the French poet, Bernard Noel. Noel has published numerous books of poetry and prose in France, and has received the Prix National de Poesie in 1992 and the Prix Max Jacob in 2005. The jury stated of her project that, "We are very excited about her project to translate Bernard Noel's book, *The Rest of the Voyage*. These poems, we are certain, will shake the earth below our feet, just as Merwin's translations of Jean Follain's did in 1969. We have never anticipated a book so much. It will surely be important and welcomed." Elena Rivera has had numerous publications, including *Suggestions at Every Turn* by Seeing Eye Book. Her work and translations have been featured in a number of journals and she is the recipient of the The Frances Jaffer Award as well as the Gertrude Stein Award for Innovative American Poetry.

Ann Cefola is the second recipient, and she has been involved in the translation of Helene Sanguinetti's work for many years. Sanguinetti is an experimental French poet and was the 2006 nominee for the prestigious Prix des Decouvreurs. Cefola has translated three of Sanguinetti's earlier works, and has published *Hence, this cradle* by Seismicity Editions. Cefola has been the recipient of the Robert Penn Warren Award and the ACE Award of Merit. The jury states of Cefola's project, "And now she begins on Sanguinetti's most ambitious work, *Le Heros*, a 140-page poem. This poem echoes with a primordial lyricism, truly strange, and nearly at this point, un-experienced in our poetry."

The Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) offers the only poetry translation residency in North

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America that offers a free one-month residency, stipend, and travel expenses. The residency is an invaluable opportunity for emerging poetry translators both nationally and internationally. The SFAI and Witter Bynner collaboration provides a truly unique experience and opportunity for the very important work of translating and interpreting poetry between languages. The time and space at the SFAI provides an oasis for poetry translators to work undisturbed, while the greater community of Santa Fe offers them a vibrant, receptive forum for presentation and discussion. Past poetry translator, Sharon Kessler states, "In my short time as Witter Bynner Poetry Translator resident, I was able to translate more than 50 additional poems, as well as write a critical introduction to the manuscript – giving me the means to present it to potential publishers." The SFAI Poetry Translator Residents also are provided with an opportunity to share their work with the Santa Fe community through a public reading.

The mission of SFAI is to explore the intersections of art and society. To this end the SFAI enlivens local, national, and international discourse through residencies (www.sfai.org/applications.html), lectures, workshops, publications, exhibitions, and educational and outreach programming (www.sfai.org/educational.html). The SFAI Residency program began in response to the tragic events of 9/11, and has been providing visual artists and writers with residencies ever since. Nurturing artists and providing a stimulating, creative atmosphere for their work serves society in an essential way and gives artists the support necessary to take risks and explore possibilities.

The SFAI thanks the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry for their continued support of this program. If there are any questions please contact Sheilah Wilson, SFAI Residency Director at swilson@sfai.org.