

# Santa Fe Art Institute

## ***For Immediate Release***

October 6, 2010

Photographer

# Victoria Sambunaris

**What:** Victoria Sambunaris **Lecture**

**Where:** Tipton Hall

**When:** Thursday, November 11, 2010 @ 6pm

**How Much:** \$10 general admission | \$5 students/seniors/members

The Santa Fe Art Institute is honored to present photographer **Victoria Sambunaris** as part of our 2010 theme **Elemental: Earth Air Fire Water - Art as Environment**.

Sambunaris photographs the American landscape with a neutrality that allows for both natural and manmade structures to be seen equally, focusing on roads, houses, freight cars and the like, poking out of the landscape as if natural occurrences. These elements are sculptural, either representing the ever changing environment, land formations, and weather or the inventions and movement of humans into the dwindling wild landscape. Her photos simultaneously show the vast expanse of the land and the increasing encroachment of progress. She captures the beauty and tragedy of such encroachment, but also the technology required by today's living standards as a part of our contemporary landscape.

Born in 1964, Sambunaris graduated from the Yale MFA program in 1999. Her work is held in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the National Museum of Women in the Arts as well as the Lannan Foundation, Santa Fe, which granted her a Foundation Fellowship in Marfa, Texas.

### **Sambunaris says of her process:**

“As a photographer, I originally developed my process for finding photographic content by getting lost on highways and freeways and chancing upon sites that would trigger unaccountably familiar responses. Whether pondering landscapes of human manipulation or geophysical occurrences, the particular issues of physicality that define our place here and now: scale, containment, space, light and compression have become the locus of my work. I am captivated by the idea of how we inhabit our landscapes as we forge ahead in our development. The suggestion of what fills our lives is somehow telling and strangely consoling. Over the years, each body of work has taken me further and further from my base in New York to discover and uncover places. Once there, I remain to experience and to explore the mystery of what a particular place contains.”

(excerpted from Women in Photography website ([www.wipnyc.org](http://www.wipnyc.org)))

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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.

SFAI funding provided in part by The Burnett Foundation, The McCune Charitable Foundation, The Lannan Foundation, The Warhol Foundation, The Joan Mitchell Foundation, The Brindle Foundation, the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers' Tax and by New Mexico Arts, a Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

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For more information about this or any SFAI event, please contact Michelle Laflamme-Childs at [mchilds@sfai.org](mailto:mchilds@sfai.org) or call (505) 424-5050.

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