



Santa Fe Art Institute

For immediate release
August 31, 2005

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Page: 1/2

Expand your art horizons, come to the Santa Fe Art Institute!

SANTA FE ART INSTITUTE PRESENTS CLOTHESLINE, AN EXHIBITION THAT EXPLORES THE ROLE OF CLOTHING IN THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Santa Fe Art Institute Presents an Exhibition by World-Renowned Artists Which Explores the Powerful and Provocative Nature of Clothing in Contemporary Art.

October 8 – November 11, 2005

Public Opening Reception: Saturday, October 8, 5-7 pm

Member's Preview, Saturday, October 8, 4-5 pm

Santa Fe Art Institute presents a remarkable group exhibition of works by the artists participating in *Clothesline*, the 2005 season of lectures, studio workshops and exhibitions which focuses on clothing, its function as metaphor, surrogate, and how clothes can reveal or conceal identity. **The *Clothesline* exhibition runs October 8 through November 11, 2005. The public opening reception is Saturday, October 8, 5-7pm with a SFAI Member's Preview 4-5pm.**

From the meticulously constructed miniatures of artist **Charles LeDray**, and the bluntly-stated facts of gender discrimination presented by the **GuerrillaGirlsBroadband**, to the keenly described specifics of society captured by photographer **Nikki S. Lee**, and the irreverent performances of **Martha Wilson**, *Clothesline* pokes and probes at our relationships to fabric, clothing, fashion, and identity. Also participating include, local Madrid artist **Woofy Bubbles** with a combination of media influenced by his love of textile, Kabuki theater and European high fashion; New York artist collaborative, **Feral Childe**, often using discarded or unwanted raw materials in their art-to-wear fashion; **Lesley Dill** weaving together language, fiber, body, and spirit in her litho prints; **Colette**, who blurs the distinction between art and life in her fantasy installations; **James Luna** whose provocative performance and installation pieces employ humor and irony to challenge audiences to re-examine their perceptions of what it means to be Native American in the contemporary world; **Senga Nengudi** whose performance-based sculptures and installations explore aspects of the human body in relation to ritual, philosophy, and spirituality; **Beverly Semmes**, who merges a formal investigation of color, pattern, and texture with a social commentary, by exaggerating the forms of clothing; the wacky and wonderful, **Pat Oleszko**, who utilizes elaborate costumes and props, to



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Page: 2/2

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create a multitude of lithe performances, films and installations; and **Two Girls Working**, a collaborative team of artists who are assets to civic action and dialogue through national, multi-media artwork.

SFAI Executive Director Diane Karp explains, "In art from around the globe, we have stunning portraiture that tells us volumes about the hierarchy and social importance of the sitters, but it is not their likeness that distinguishes them. It is often their clothing or costumes that tell legions about who they are: their importance, social position and power. Throughout the history of art and securely into the present, clothing, costumes, uniforms and other details of dress provide a rich and complex discussion of social norms, roles and hierarchies as well as ideas about identity."

The exhibition is presented as part of **Clothesline**, the Santa Fe Art Institute's 2005 20th Anniversary season, which includes artists' lectures, studio workshops, performances, and special events. **Clothesline** will be open to the public Monday through Friday, from 9 to 5pm. Admission to the exhibition is free.

Clothesline expands upon Santa Fe Art Institute's mission which 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.

Clothesline is funded with support from Avalon Trust Company, Brindle Foundation, The Burnett Foundation, M.A. Healy, Lannan Foundation, McCune Charitable Foundation, City of Santa Fe Arts Commission, and Santa Fe Art Institute's Board of Trustees.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED BIO SHEET FOR MORE INFO ON THE PARTICIPATING ARTISTS.