



Santa Fe Art Institute

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Contact:
Jennifer Schlesinger
jschlesinger@sfai.org
(505) 424 5050

SANTA FE ART INSTITUTE presents

Doris Francis "Cemetery as Garden: English Landscapes of Memory"

Public Lecture: Wednesday, October 29, 2003, 6pm

On Wednesday, October 29, 2003, the Santa Fe Art Institute will offer "Cemetery as Garden: English Landscapes of Memory," a slide lecture by anthropologist Doris Francis, who will discuss the image of the cemetery in nature and the links between death and gardens to explore how people invoke the resources of the natural world to construct landscapes of memory. The lecture is open to the public and will take place at 6 p.m. in Tipton Hall on the College of Santa Fe campus.

In an informal lecture that will use slide imagery from study in different London cemeteries (Cypriot Greek Orthodox, Muslim, Church of England, and Jewish Orthodox), Doris Francis will explore the cemetery as a sacred space connected not only to nature and its life cycle but also to identity and memory. With flowers—ephemeral, ever-changing elements—and stones—permanent, stabilizing features—family and friends of the dead create grave gardens where the life cycle of nature offers transcendence beyond the more traditional perspective of death as an end point. The construction and tending of these grave gardens allows identity—both of the dead and the living left behind—to be created and continually re-envisioned, memories to be made through a physically embodied process, and communication between the living and the dead to continue. Francis will trace the evolution of 'cemetery as garden' from urban-based churchyards to cemeteries located in the English countryside, where nature's life cycle—birth, death, rebirth—is evident. She will also look at the work of several contemporary artists, including Jim Hodges, Sam Taylor-Wood, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Zoe Leonard, Donna Sharrett, and others, whose work investigates the ephemerality of the natural world.

Doris Francis, Ph.D. is a social-cultural anthropologist/gerontologist whose research, publications, and exhibitions have focused on ethnic folk art and the elderly as transmitters of traditional culture; occupational folk art as a creative strategy for maintaining self-identity in retirement; cemeteries as sites of cultural creativity and memory construction; ethnobotany, the study of the interrelationship of people and plants; and ethnographic jewelry as biography and embodied identity. Francis holds a degree in horticulture from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England. Currently, she is a research associate at the Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe, where her work focuses on documenting the talismans, amulets, milagros, and ex votos in the Girard Collection. The author of many articles, essays, and book chapters, Francis' book *The Secret Cemetery* is forthcoming from Berg/New York University Press in 2004.

Lecture tickets are \$5 and are available at the door. This lecture is part of the Santa Fe Art Institute's 2003 *Uncommon Ground: Manmade* series. For more information on the series, please visit SFAI's website at www.sfai.org or call 505-424-5050. The Santa Fe Art Institute is located at 1600 St. Michael's Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505. *Uncommon Ground: Manmade* is funded in part with support from The Burnett Foundation, Lannan Foundation, and The McCune Charitable Foundation.