



Santa Fe Art Institute

For immediate release

May 6, 2004

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STUDIO WORKSHOP BY VISITING ARTIST SHIRIN NESHAT INVESTIGATES BOUNDARIES BETWEEN CINEMA AND OTHER VISUAL ARTS

Santa Fe Art Institute Presents a Studio Workshop and Lecture by Internationally Renowned Artist Shirin Neshat as part of Transmit+Transform

STUDIO WORKSHOP: Shirin Neshat with filmmaker Shoja Azari
June 14–18, 2004

PUBLIC LECTURE: June 14, 2004, 6 pm

Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) is pleased to present a workshop and lecture by **Shirin Neshat**, visiting artist at SFAI, as part of **Transmit+Transform**, a season of interdisciplinary programs that explores the ways in which contemporary artists working in a variety of media engage sound and light.

From poetic video installations and films to collaborations with musicians and writers, Shirin Neshat delves deeply into emotional landscapes to create epic journeys in sight and sound. Together with her collaborator, filmmaker Shoja Azari, Neshat's **studio workshop (June 14–18)** will begin with an evaluation of each participant's work. In-depth discussions and dialogues will focus on video art, film, and photography, and Neshat and Azari will help each participating artist to create a conceptual framework for the workshop. One of the key areas of interest and discussion will be Neshat and Azari's experiences in crossing the boundaries between cinema and other visual arts.

Neshat's public lecture takes place on **June 14** in Tipton Hall on the College of Santa Fe campus. Tickets are \$5; \$2.50 students with identification. **For details visit www.sfai.org or call 505 424 5050.**

Born in Iran in 1957, Shirin Neshat went to high school in the United States. Exiled after the Iranian Revolution of 1979, Neshat studied art at University of California--Berkeley, and for the last 20 years she has explored the revolution's profound effect on the culture and people of Iran, particularly the women. While her work challenges traditional views of East and West, male and female, sacred and secular, it is not polemical. Rather Neshat has developed a poetic visual language that transcends contemporary topics and goes directly to our essential humanity.

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Rethinking the relationship between fine art practice and film, Neshat has created an emotionally powerful, aesthetically stunning synthesis of photography, video, and film, which has gained widespread recognition. She has exhibited extensively including major solo exhibitions at Casello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy; Serpentine Gallery, London, England; Art Institute of Chicago; and Tate Gallery, London, England. She has upcoming exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Athens and Musée d'Art Contemporain in Montreal, which travels to the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston, and the Miami Art Museum.

Neshat's work has been exhibited in many group shows including Triennial of Photography and Video, International Center of Photography, New York; Documenta 11, Kassel, Germany; Moving Pictures, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum of Art, New York; *Visions from America*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Beyeler Foundation, Basel, Switzerland; Biennial de Valencia, Valencia, Spain; La Beauté, Avignon, France; La Biennale di Venezia, curated by Harald Szeemann, Venice, Italy; and *Unfinished History* curated by Francesco Bonami, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

Shirin Neshat's studio workshop and lecture are presented as part of **Transmit+Transform**, Santa Fe Art Institute's 2004 season of visiting artists' workshops and lectures, exhibitions, performances, and special events. **Transmit+Transform** expands upon the Art Institute's mission to explore the intersections of art and society, 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.

For more information on **Transmit+Transform**, or for a studio workshop application, please visit SFAI's website at www.sfai.org or call 505-424-5050. Santa Fe Art Institute is located at 1600 St. Michael's Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505.

Transmit+Transform is funded with support from The Burnett Foundation, Lannan Foundation, McCune Charitable Foundation, Brindle Foundation, M.A. Healy, New Mexico Bank & Trust, Avalon Trust, Getty Trust, Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation, City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and Santa Fe Art Institute's Board of Trustees.