



Santa Fe Art Institute

For immediate release
January 24, 2006

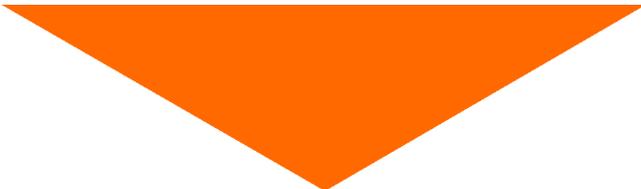
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SANTA FE ART INSTITUTE presents
Incanting Flesh, Incanting Persona: Storytelling and the Body
A One-Day Writing Workshop with former SFAI resident, Elizabeth Block
Workshop Dates: Sunday, March 12th 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Cost of Workshop: \$100, Scholarships are available

This exploratory and meandering fiction writing class will delve into the human body as site for narrative and poetic prose development. Participants will explore the body as storytelling site by engaging in writing exercises, reading, writing a draft of a story, and discussing each other's works. While human transformation and the problems of character tend to comprise most of what we commonly know as fiction or drama, the body as narrative site seems infinitely ripe as a mode of creating or undoing mythic persona. Take for example Kate Braverman's acclaimed and poetic novel, *The Incantation of Frida K.*, an almost mythic autopsy of a heroic female persona in the flesh. Departing from (but not bound to) Braverman's novel, the class will give students the opportunity to look at how the specificity of bodies and their personas determine and guide storytelling structures. A fictional framework for the life of Frida Kahlo, for example, would look wholly different than a story based on the myth and body of Martha Stewart. But finding a compelling character and sending him on his fictional journey, while significant to constructing and tearing apart narrative, is almost peripheral to the journey on which this writing workshop will traverse. We will focus not just on what the body does in a story, but the hallucinatory gaps between how the body acts and how the body's persona may perceive. And the most interesting fiction depends on these gaps!

Ideally, participants should read Kate Braverman's *The Incantation of Frida K.* before the workshop, and bring a 2-page writing sample to be distributed and read to the group during the first part of the workshop. Bring a "bag lunch" and pen and paper, or if you prefer, a laptop computer.



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Elizabeth Block is the author of the recently published novel, *A Gesture Through Time*. The book, written under fiscal sponsorship of Intersection for the Arts (San Francisco), was short-listed for a Heekin Foundation first novel fellowship and a Starcherone Fiction Prize. In 2005-6, Block performs her writing across the United States. She has published fiction, poetry, drama, and essays in a variety of print and electronic journals and her writing has been broadcast on the radio (TDR, Chain, Chimera Review, alt-x, Eclectic Seizure Radio, ONTHEBUS, SF Review of Books, Camerawork, San Francisco Bay Guardian, Documents Between, etc.). Her short films have screened extensively (Anthology Film Archives, San Francisco Cinematheque, Museum of Contemporary Art/Denver, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Madcat International Women's Film Festival U.S. Tour, etc.). Block, who lives in San Francisco, is delighted to return to Santa Fe after her recent SFAI artist residency. Block teaches creative writing at City College of San Francisco. She has also taught at UC Santa Cruz, California College of the Arts, and San Francisco State University. She graduated with high honors from the University of Michigan; she received an M.A. in cultural anthropology from UC Santa Cruz, and M.F.A degrees in creative writing and film/video from the California College of the Arts. Elizabeth has also educated little ones in non-traditional settings, such as the Exploratorium Museum of Science, Art, and Human Perception (in San Francisco) where she taught filmmaking to children and co-presented a children's summer film festival.

The **cost of the workshop** is \$100. There are two full scholarships given per workshop. One scholarship is for a full time educator. The second is a need-based scholarship for an artist or student. Partial scholarships are also granted on an individual basis as needed. To prove financial need please mail a letter with a copy of your most recent tax return.

A 50% deposit is necessary to reserve a space in the workshop. This deposit is fully refundable if you cancel 30 days prior to the beginning of the class. The remaining cost of the workshop is due on the first day of class. You may pay your deposit by phone with a Visa or MasterCard by calling 505 424-5050 or by mail with a check made out to the Santa Fe Art Institute, PO Box 24044, Santa Fe, NM 87502.

Workshop participants have the opportunity to choose package accommodations at La Posada de Santa Fe Resort and Spa or stay at SFAI's extraordinary facilities. Discounts are also given to workshop participants at the nearby El Rey Inn.