

Santa Fe Art Institute

For Immediate Release:
May 1, 2007

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Michael Schall



Melissa Thorne, Radiant Cities 2005

The May Studio Talk will occur on Thursday, May 24 with a 4pm start time.

The Studio Talks invite the community to come into the studios of SFAI artists and writers to see what these national and international artists have been making, thinking and creating. At 4pm we will start with readings in the lounge and then move through the visual arts studios. The Studio Talk is a fabulous, monthly opportunity to meet the artists and writers, experience exciting new art, engage in conversation and enjoy refreshments.

Jungjin Lee (Korea) is interested in the act of photographing the American desert. She has recently worked on two photographic series entitled 'Wind' and 'Thing'. She received her MA from NYU with a major in photography.

Michael Schall (New York) is interested in drawing imagined landscapes where instruments of human industry attempt to somehow alter the surface of the earth. Shown in various stages of construction and decay, these illogical human projects stem from my interest in the ways cities sprawl, in the location of landfills and powerplants, etc. Schall graduated with his MFA from Pratt Institute in 2005.

Tim Best (New Orleans) is an Emergency Relief Resident who will be pursuing the data gathered from his time outside the art world. This information is what motivates the photo and video work that deals with the idea of the 'ideal' and the drama that surrounds its pursuit. Best's work has appeared in the Apt. 3 Gallery in Massachusetts and at the Acme Gallery in New Orleans.

Douglas Basford (Maryland) will be working on the translation work of Jean Senac and

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Silvio D'Arzo. Basford holds his MA in Writing from the John Hopkins University and has been a lecturer there from 1999 to present.

"Our road passes across the bridges,
large and precise like the neck of a bull,
it fears the heart in oppositional hours,
caught up in pleasure it's words it fears."
Translation from the French from 'Edgard's Lessons' by Jean Senac.

David Levinson (New York) will be continuing work on his novel *The Art of Losing*, a part historical, part-fanciful novel, which takes its genesis from a terrible event in India's history – the 1984 Bhopal disaster. Levinson recently completed a residency at Yaddo, and graduated with his MFA in Fiction from the New School.

Courtney Egan (New Orleans) is an Emergency Relief Resident who will be working on the footage that she collected on her video camera, orally and otherwise in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Egan received her MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art.

Melissa Thorne (California) has been working to create a dialogue between the rarified realm of the avant garde and the vernacular of craft culture. Her work is interested in the period rooms in museums, identifying historic 'american' desires and ideals and finding a historical lineage for the images, objects and architectural landmarks that inform Thorne's work. Thorne received her MFA from the California Institute of the Arts.

Arabella Grayson (California) recently curated an exhibit called "Two Hundred Years of Black Paper Dolls: The Arabella Grayson Collection" which is based on Grayson's collection of more than 300 Black paper dolls, the earliest dating to 1863. Grayson will be working on the text for this exhibit during her residency.

Mark Grote (New Orleans) is an Emergency Relief Resident who looks to the outside world to inform his practice. He often utilizes local, discarded and found objects. Grote received his MFA from Washington University.

SFAI Artist and Writer Residencies are supported by the Pollock Krasner Foundation, Lannan Foundation, Trust for Mutual Understanding, Joan Mitchell Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts and the Witter Bynner Foundation.