

**For immediate release:**

Good through: November 10, 2008

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**Chrissie Orr – El Otro Lado/The Other Side**

What: Chrissie Orr **Lecture**

Where: Tipton Hall

When: Monday, November 10, 6pm

How Much: \$5 General Public, \$2.50 students/seniors/SFAI members

Local community artist, Chrissie Orr, works with a diverse, intergenerational array of people to explore personal and political struggles with the broad concepts of borders, migration, and human rights. Her current project, ***El Otro Lado: The Other Side***, breaks down barriers within the polarized political debate around immigration by sharing the individual stories of people living here in Santa Fe. This city-wide project presents the visual artwork and audio stories made by a multi ethnic group of teenagers, and is now on exhibit in the Santa Fe Trails city buses as part of the Santa Fe Art Institute's *Art In Transit/Arte en Transito* program.

On Monday, November 10 at 6pm in Tipton Hall, Orr will talk about her work on the ***El Otro Lado/The Other Side*** project, and will run a community arts workshop with students from Santa Fe's Institute of American Indian Arts.

***El Otro Lado: The Other Side*** began in January 2008 as part of SFAI's *Outsider: Tourism, Migration and Exile* series, in collaboration with the Academy for the Love of Learning and the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission. Throughout the spring and summer Orr lead visual art, writing, and audio recording workshops with over 120 students from local public high schools. In May, the artwork was exhibited at SFAI in our yearly youth art exhibition *Sounds Of Change*, and was presented at SFAI in its present form as part of *Outsider/El Otro* exhibition in October, 2008. Throughout the summer, Orr worked with a smaller group of Santa Fe teenagers to document their personal stories of migrations and integrations through visual imagery, writing, and audio recordings. The result is a series of beautiful, multi-layered digital images describing and recording each student's individual journey.

Working with sound artist Pablo Ancona, students edited their audio histories into concise and powerful statements about the complexities of journey and migration. The audio pieces can be

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Chrissie Orr

*El Otro Lado/The Other Side*

heard via a cell phone service Guide By Cell, and the telephone numbers to access these stories accompany each image.

Chrissie Orr is an artist, anthropologist, activist, and animator. She received her MA from the Edinburgh College of Art. She has been a circus performer throughout Europe, a muralist in Corsica, and has been the creator of community-based art projects in Europe, Australia, Iran, Turkey, Mexico and the US. As co-director of the *Arran Community Arts Project*, Isle of Arran, Scotland, she was awarded one of the first rural arts grants by the Scottish Arts Council. She directed the cross-border Bridge Project between El Paso and Juarez, Mexico, and was guest artist and the University of Michigan. In Santa Fe, Orr founded *Teen Project*, a CCA venture that became a national model for teen programs and which was recognized by both the US Congress and the NEA. *Teen Project* later became the non-profit organization, Warehouse 21.

Says Orr, "My work is about developing an aesthetic around community and site with issues relevant to both. The work often is a catalyst for social change."

**For more information about this exhibition or the OUTSIDER season please contact Michelle Laflamme-Childs at [mchilds@sfai.org](mailto:mchilds@sfai.org) or Gabe Gomez at [ggomez@sfai.org](mailto:ggomez@sfai.org) or call (505) 424-5050.**

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