



## **For Immediate Release**

April 15, 2009

**Christy Hengst's**

## **Birds in the Park**

**What:** Birds in the Park **Installation**

**Where:** SFAI (exterior, front entrance)

**When:** May 12, 2009 9am - 5pm

**How Much:** FREE

This spring, the Santa Fe Art Institute will be a host site to ***Birds in the Park***, a migrating public project by Christy Hengst.

Made from porcelain with cobalt blue printing, these birds are, in a sense, carrier pigeons, carrying images and text related to war and peace side by side. Inherent to this work is the question, what kind of future do memories create? Layering newspaper articles and photographs from the beginning of the invasion of Iraq, with poetry and other evidences of the strength and depth of our common humanity, Hengst explores how we are connected, and also the unthinkable ways in which that bond is disregarded.

For most citizens, as well as for Hengst, personal experience of this war has been mainly through the media. It could be said that the media had a large role in the U.S. public's acceptance of the decision to go to war. Thus this project also looks at how the invasion of Iraq was "sold" to regular people, and how discussions about the cold facts of war, weapons capabilities etc. can become detached from the human reality on the other end, creeping into everyday life as something normal, like birds in the park.

The birds will be appearing at many sites throughout the city of Santa Fe and the surrounding area (Los Alamos, Albuquerque) from February to May. In the summer, the flock will fly further afield, with landings planned in San Diego, New Orleans, New York, Berlin, Barcelona and the Galapagos Islands.

Here is the full schedule:

4/16/09 - Institute of American Indian Arts, 83 Avan Nu Po Rd., Santa Fe, NM

4/19/09 - Museum of Fine Arts, 107 W. Palace Ave, Santa Fe, NM

4/21/09 - Santa Fe City Hall In between City Hall and Convention Center

4/25/09 - Rose Park, Galisteo St., Santa Fe, NM

4/29/09 - Upaya Zen Center, 1404 Cerro Gordo Rd., Santa Fe, NM

4/30/09 - La Farge Library, Llano St., Santa Fe, NM

5/5/09 - Santa Fe Clay / Railroad Tracks, 1615 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM

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The Santa Fe Art Institute, an independent educational non-profit organization founded in 1985, is committed to programs that nurture artists and enhance and promote the arts as an essential element of American culture and society.

SFAI funding provided in part by The Burnett Foundation, The McCune Charitable Foundation, The Lannan Foundation, The Warhol Foundation, The Joan Mitchell Foundation, The Brindle Foundation, the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers' Tax and by New Mexico Arts, a Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

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5/6/09 - Southside Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive, Santa Fe, NM  
5/12/09 - Santa Fe Art Institute, 1600 St. Michael's Drive, Santa Fe, NM  
5/14/09 - Santa Fe Transit Center, 2931 Rufina St., Santa Fe, NM  
5/16/09 - Santa Fe Map Bus Stop, Cerrillos Rd, Across from Whole Foods  
5/16/09 - Box Gallery, 1611 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM  
5/17/09 - Genoveva Chavez Center, 3221 Rodeo Rd., Santa Fe, NM  
5/19/09 - Santa Fe City Hall, near main entrance facing Lincoln  
5/23/09 - Alto/Bicentennial Park, 1042 Alto St., Santa Fe, NM  
5/27/09 - Old Santa Fe Trail Monument, Museum Hill, 710 Camino Lejo, SF, NM  
5/27/09 - Bus Stop at Santa Fe Community College, 6401 S. Richards Ave., SF, NM  
6/13/09 - Aachen, Germany  
7/2/09 - Central Park, New York, NY  
7/29 - 7/30/09 - Esalen Institute, Big Sur, CA  
8/29 - 8/30/09 - Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

For twenty years, Christy Hengst's work has followed a double track of more intimate art meant for inside, and site-specific art out in the public realm. Solo shows of Hengst's paintings have been presented in museums and galleries in the US, Germany, and Ecuador. Public art projects have spanned the range from a guerilla text installation to elaborately tiled bus shelters. Hengst lives in Santa Fe and has two children.

For more information, images, or interview requests, please contact Michelle Laflamme-Childs at [mchilds@sfai.org](mailto:mchilds@sfai.org) or call (505) 424-5050.

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