



For Immediate Release

April 15, 2009

Photographer, Visual Artist, Activist

David Maisel

What: David Maisel **Lecture**

Where: Tipton Hall

When: May 11, 2009 10am - 4pm

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

What: David Maisel **Workshop/Portfolio Review**

Where: SFAI

When: May 12, 2009 @ 6pm

How Much: Call for info

Michelle Laflamme-Childs

Residency Director &
Marketing/PR Director

We are honored to have photographer **David Maisel** speak as part of the Santa Fe Art Institute's 2009 visiting artist and lecture season **Memory: Shadow & Light - Art as individual/collective memory**. Maisel will speak about his recent body of work re-photographing x-rays of art objects - a beautiful tribute to the idea of art as memory and also the memory of art.

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For more than twenty years, photographer David Maisel has chronicled the tensions between nature and culture in his large-scaled photographs of environmentally impacted landscapes. In the multi-chaptered series **Black Maps**, Maisel's aerial images become sublime meditations on what the curator Anne Tucker has termed "the engaging duality between beauty and repulsion." In Maisel's recent project, **Library of Dust**, he continues to investigate a zone bordered by aesthetics and ethics. The series depicts individual copper canisters, each containing the cremated remains of patients from a state-run psychiatric hospital, whose bodies have been unclaimed by their families. Maisel has recently been an Artist in Residence at both the Getty Research Institute and at the Headlands Center for the Arts.

Without memory we have no past and therefore no way of contextualizing the present or the future -- our memories inform all aspects of life and without it, the world makes no sense. Our perception of the past, conversely, is always influenced by the present, which means that memory is fluid and changeable. Because memory is not just an individual, private experience but is also part of the collective domain, cultural memory has become a topic in every part of study and practice. Some artists see cultural memory as becoming more democratic, due to the rise of new media. Others see cultural memory as remaining concentrated in the hands of corporations and states.

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

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.