

For Immediate Release

December 14, 2010

Santa Fe Art Institute Awarded The Climate Change Leadership Institute's 2010 "Conservation Quest Champions Prize" for FLASH FLOOD

SANTA FE – The Climate Change Leadership Institute's "Conservation Quest Champions Award" for 2010 was presented today to the Santa Fe Art Institute for their organization of the FLASH FLOOD for a Living River Community Art Action.

The Climate Change Leadership Institute (CCLI) is a New Mexico based non-profit organization dedicated to education and action in our civil society for the advancement of climate stewardship and the clean energy revolution. They have many functions (about which you can read at their website www.takeresponsibility.us) but one of their primary roles, as part of a project called the Conservation Quest, is to encourage the conservation of energy and water simultaneously. As part of this project, they award an annual medal and financial prize to an individual and/or organization in New Mexico that makes a meaningful difference in integrating solutions to our multi-faceted water, energy, and climate crises.

Says Robb Hirsch, CCLI Executive Director, in his award letter, "This year, the CCLI awards its Conservation Quest Champions Prize to the Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI) in honor of their organization's demonstrated leadership and excellent implementation of the FLASH FLOOD Project (as illustrated at www.sfai.org). Not only did SFAI mobilize and engage an impressive number of local civil society participants in the project, SFAI educated and activated the public in an on-going movement to take care of our Santa Fe River and take care of the earth's climate at once. Integrating solutions to energy, climate, and water challenges is vital for our collective sustainability and survival and the Santa Fe Art Institute is to be commended for outstanding leadership in this noble pursuit. CCLI also appreciates the way SFAI involved so many young people in this terrific project and incorporated the medium and application of art into sustainability solutions – as we believe, as well, in the importance of encouraging creative leadership with young people in our society."

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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.

The SFAI is extremely pleased and proud, to be awarded such an honor. With their fundamental charge to use art to bring attention to critical issues of cultural freedom, social justice, and environmental responsibility around the world and right here at home, they will continue to involve all aspects of the community in engaging, creative, and inspired art actions.

The Santa Fe Art Institute takes as its mission an exploration of the interconnections of contemporary art and society. By bringing together prominent individuals and institutions in the arts, sciences, and humanities, SFAI enlivens local, national, and international discourse through residencies, lectures, workshops, publications, exhibitions, and educational and outreach programming. Nurturing artists and providing a stimulating, creative atmosphere for their work serves society in an essential way and gives artists the support necessary to take risks and explore possibilities. www.sfai.org or www.sfaiblog.org.

For more information about this or any SFAI event or programming, please contact Michelle Laflamme-Childs at mchilds@sfai.org or call (505) 424-5050.

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