

## Santa Fe Art Institute

Good Afternoon!

The SFAI's annual fundraising event is here! On November 9th, environmentalist extraordinaire, Bill McKibben, will be speaking at the Lencic Performing Arts Center as a fundraiser for the Santa Fe Art Institute. McKibben has written a dozen books ranging from his first, "The End of Nature," published in 1989 and lauded as the first book for a general audience on climate change, to books about his hobby of ultra-running, and issues of genetic engineering.

For his talk on the 9th Bill will speak about the role of the arts as a focus for important actions and engagements around responsible stewardship and alternative solutions to the climate change crisis.

Tickets for this inspiring evening will range from \$25 to \$100. The \$100 tickets will ensure preferred event seating, a signed copy of his most recent book, *Eaarth*, as well as a fabulous catered dinner at SFAI with Bill, following the lecture.

Please contact me at this email or (505) 424-505 with any questions, interview requests, or for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of the SFAI. We are truly grateful!

Best,  
Michelle

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The Santa Fe Art Institute presents, supports and nurtures art, ideas and artists at the intersections of the contemporary arts and society through residencies, lectures, studio workshops, exhibitions and educational outreach. SFAI is an environment where creativity, innovation, and challenging ideas thrive.



has coordinated 15,000 rallies in 189 countries since 2009. *Time Magazine* called him 'the planet's best green journalist' and the *Boston Globe* said in 2010 that he was 'probably the country's most important environmentalist.' Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College, he holds honorary degrees from a dozen colleges, including the Universities of Massachusetts and Maine, the State University of New York, and Whittier and Colgate Colleges. In 2011 he was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Bill grew up in suburban Lexington, Massachusetts. He was president of the Harvard Crimson newspaper in college. Immediately after college he joined the *New Yorker* magazine as a staff writer, and wrote much of the "Talk of the Town" column from 1982 to early 1987. He quit the magazine when its longtime editor William Shawn was forced out of his job, and soon moved to the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York.

His first book, *The End of Nature*, was published in 1989 by Random House after being serialized in the *New Yorker*. It is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change, and has been printed in more than 20 languages. Several editions have come out in the United States, including an updated version published in 2006.

His next book, *The Age of Missing Information*, was published in 1992. It is an account of an experiment: McKibben collected everything that came across the 100 channels of cable tv on the Fairfax, Virginia system (at the time among the nation's largest) for a single day. He spent a year watching the 2,400 hours of videotape, and then compared it to a day spent on the mountaintop near his home. This book has been widely used in colleges and high schools, and was reissued in a new edition in 2006.

Subsequent books include *Hope, Human and Wild*, about Curitiba, Brazil and Kerala, India, which he cites as examples of people living more lightly on the earth; *The Comforting Whirlwind: God, Job, and the Scale of Creation*, which is about the Book of Job and the environment; *Maybe One*, about human population; *Long Distance: A Year of Living Strenuously*, about a year spent training for endurance events at an elite level; *Enough*, about what he sees as the existential dangers of genetic engineering; *Wandering Home*, about a long solo hiking trip from his current home in the mountains east of Lake Champlain in Ripton, Vermont back to his longtime neighborhood of the Adirondacks.

In March 2007 McKibben published *Deep Economy: the Wealth of*

*Communities and the Durable Future*. It addresses what the author sees as shortcomings of the growth economy and envisions a transition to more local-scale enterprise.

In late summer 2006, Bill helped lead a five-day walk across Vermont to demand action on global warming that some newspaper accounts called the largest demonstration to date in America about climate change.

Beginning in January 2007 he founded [stepitup07.org](http://stepitup07.org) to demand that Congress enact curbs on carbon emissions that would cut global warming pollution 80 percent by 2050. With six college students, he organized 1,400 global warming demonstrations across all 50 states of America on April 14, 2007. Step It Up 2007 has been described as the largest day of protest about climate change in the nation's history. A guide to help people initiate environmental activism in their community coming out of the Step It Up 2007 experience entitled *Fight Global Warming Now* was published in October 2007 and a second day of action on climate change was held the following November 3.

March 2008 saw the publication of *The Bill McKibben Reader*, a collection of 44 essays written for various publications over the past 25 years.

Bill is a frequent contributor to various magazines including *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's*, *Orion Magazine*, *Mother Jones*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Granta*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Outside*. He is also a board member and contributor to *Grist Magazine*.

Bill has been awarded Guggenheim and Lyndhurst Fellowships, and won the Lannan Prize for nonfiction writing in 2000. He has honorary degrees from Green Mountain College, Unity College, Lebanon Valley College and Sterling College.

About ***Half Life: Patterns of Change:***

*Cycles of Creation, Decay, and Renewal in Art and Life*

When an object or system stops performing its assigned function in contemporary society, we tend to replace it rather than repair it. However, artists redefine useless as useful by creating a new life for objects, and that renewed life alters the role of these objects entirely. Artists work similar magic with degraded landscapes, blighted neighborhoods, and other systems—infusing them with new purpose and expanding the potential for positive change. Ideally, this change is accomplished with the participation of the surrounding communities—transforming not only objects and

systems, but also the communities themselves.

About the SFAI:

Founded in 1985, the Santa Fe Art Institute's mission is to promote art as a positive social force — both in our community and around the world — and to highlight art as a powerful tool for facilitating dialogue, bridging perspectives, and evoking visions of a better future.

For more information about this or any SFAI programming, please contact Michelle Laflamme-Childs at [mchilds@sfaio.org](mailto:mchilds@sfaio.org) or call (505) 424-5050.