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Documentary Film Screening

Up Heartbreak Hill

Followed by a Q&A w/ Filmmaker Erica Scharf

March 19

6pm @ Tipton Hall

Santa Fe, NM - The Santa Fe Art Institute is proud to present accomplished documentary filmmaker and television producer, Erica Scharf and her award-winning film, *Up Heartbreak Hill*.

Up Heartbreak Hill is Scharf's first feature length film. Shot in New Mexico, *Up Heartbreak Hill* chronicles the lives of three Native American teenagers in Navajo, NM — Thomas, an elite runner, Tamara, an academic superstar, and Gabby, an aspiring photographer — as they navigate their senior year at a reservation high school. As graduation nears, they must decide whether or not to stay in their community — a place inextricably woven into the fiber of their being. They hesitate to separate from their families, traditions, and the community that helps define them, and they wrestle with the idea of becoming the next generation to lead the Navajo Nation. Their battles to shape their identities as both Native American and modern American lie at the heart of the film.

Scharf has spent much of her career in documentary film and television and is currently producing HGTV's hit show, *House Hunters International*. She has worked as an editor on Investigation Discovery's documentary television series, *The Shift* and has shot, produced and edited numerous episodes of *The First 48* (A&E). She directed and edited *Marnee: A Garage Sale Retrospective*, which was the First Place Winner at Movie Making Madness 2005, and edited *City* (Best Short Film, 2007 Aspen Shortsfest). Scharf is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and has a B.F.A. in Film and Television.

P.O.V. will broadcast the film on PBS July 26, 2012 and the SFAI will screen the film with Erica for her director's commentary and a Q&A on March 19, 2012 at 6pm in Tipton Hall on the campus of the Santa Fe University of Art and Design. A small reception at the SFAI will follow.

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.

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