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SITE SANTA FE ANNOUNCES LANCE FUNG AS CURATOR

FOR SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN 2008

Santa Fe, NM—SITE Santa Fe is pleased to announce the appointment of **Lance Fung** as curator for its Seventh International Biennial exhibition scheduled to run from July of 2008 through early January, 2009.

SITE Santa Fe's director, Laura Steward Heon said, "SITE Santa Fe has developed an incredible track record in its short history, and prides itself on always setting a higher bar for each Biennial. With his remarkable experience in the public sector and the non-profit world, both in this country and abroad, Lance is perhaps one of the most risk-taking curators on the planet who can realize a major exhibition such as this one with such outrageous creativity and commitment."

Marlene Nathan Meyerson, Chairman of the Board of SITE Santa Fe, whole-heartedly supported Lance's appointment as she remarked, "I saw what he could do with *The Snow Show* in Lapland (2004) and in Torino (2006), and his curatorial vision, perseverance, and sheer tenacity is unmatched by anyone I have ever met. We are extremely privileged to have Lance on board for 2008."

Fung explains, "In my experience visiting Santa Fe and SITE's Biennial specifically, I was so impressed by the institution itself—the staff, the board, the supporters, and the visitors— it made me want to be a part of it. Their passion and commitment challenged

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me to attempt to create a different sort of biennial. Also, I recall how every one of SITE's Biennials has been such a personal statement by every curator, each one so different from the next. Since my exhibitions are typically very personal, the connection to the people of Santa Fe gave me an added sense of curatorial responsibility.

“As the curator for 2008, I want to do more than just another big group exhibition—I want to redefine the paradigm of a biennial through collaboration, to offer an alternative and new approach, one in keeping with the history of SITE's own biennials. I want to find other like-minded organizations that share the same energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to mission as SITE does. Through collaborating with the right match of global partner organizations—some perhaps well-known for idiosyncratic, specialized, or strong programming, others more radical or grass-roots-oriented doing great work—it is my goal to raise awareness of SITE's own strengths, to showcase the distinctive flavor of each collaborator, to inspire learning, and to bring people together to foster a broad sea-change in visual arts presentation. Through the lens of sincere collaboration and exchange, as well as by putting on a dynamic exhibition, I really want the world to see what a special place Santa Fe is, as well as SITE Santa Fe and the community.”

“Process and collaboration are the key components of my concept,” Fung explains.

He plans on having 15-20 collaborative partners worldwide, including SITE. Each partner institution will propose three possible artists to represent their core mission, and Fung will select one artist from the three to make a commissioned piece for the Biennial. Then, the selected artists will come to Santa Fe for a two-week residency in January, generously hosted by the Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI). After spending time together, the artists will have gotten to know one another, shared their perspectives and working methods, resulting in a mutually beneficial experience which will undoubtedly influence their commissions for the Biennial. Finally, the artists will return to the SFAI in early summer for an additional 4-6 week residency to create their installations for the exhibition to open on June 22, 2008.

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Fung, along with SITE staff, is currently researching a long list of possible collaborating organizations from which he will identify the participants.

SITE Santa Fe

Since its opening in 1995, SITE's mission has been to bring the global contemporary art dialogue to the Southwest region of the U.S. SITE's Biennial, organized by a guest curator of international reputation, always attempts a paradigm shift in the field of visual arts. More than any other kind of exhibition, the Biennial has the flexibility and reach to affect fundamental change in our perception of art. SITE's Biennial is known worldwide for the innovation of its curators, and for showcasing great curators ahead of the rest of the art world. In fact, three of SITE's six curators have subsequently served as Directors of the Venice Biennale, and a fourth won a MacArthur "Genius" Award.

Previous curators of SITE Santa Fe Biennials include Bruce Ferguson (1995); Francesco Bonami (1997); Rosa Martinez (1999), Dave Hickey (2001), Robert Storr (2004), and Klaus Ottmann (2006).

Lance Fung Biography

With the encouragement of video /Fluxus artist Nam June Paik, Lance Fung left the directorship of the Holly Solomon Gallery in 1996 to open his own gallery. The Lance

Fung Gallery became a leading contemporary gallery in New York, working with many of the pioneering artists from the Fluxus, Minimal, and Conceptual periods including Nam June Paik, Sol LeWitt, and Robert Barry. Other artists such as Shigeo Kubota, Peter Hutchinson, and Robert Morris joined his unique gallery focusing on installation and the avant-garde.

As an independent curator, Fung has created important a number of exhibitions in this country and abroad: *Crossing Parallels*, at the SSamzie Space in Seoul, Korea; *Going Home*, at the Edward Hopper Historical Museum in Nyack, New York; *Revisiting Gordon Matta-Clark*, at the Venice Architectural Biennale in 2002; and *The Snow Show Preview* at UNESCO's Palazzo Zorzi for the 2003 Venice Biennale.

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One of his most exciting projects was *The Snow Show* exhibition, realized in 2004 in Lapland and in 2006 in Torino, Italy for The Cultural Olympiad of the XX Olympic Winter Games. *The Snow Show* presented the collaborative works of over 30 internationally recognized artists and architects including Tadao Ando, Norman Foster, Morphosis, Yoko Ono, and Kiki Smith.

The Snow Show exhibitions garnered significant international press, and their legacy has been preserved by a Thames & Hudson exhibition catalogue as well as a BBC documentary. These projects were unique in allowing participants to explore the collaborative process between art and architecture and to create works by using snow and ice as materials. *The Snow Show* also generated new technological knowledge about snow and ice building.

Currently, Fung is curating the first international large-scale exhibition of public installations in Beijing, China in conjunction with the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

Fung studied biology, art history and studio art at The University of California at Davis, and received his B.A. in 1986. He received his Master's of Fine Arts from The School of Visual Arts (New York) in 1989.

SITE Santa Fe is located at 1606 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Hours: Wed–Sat, 10 AM–5 PM; Friday, 10 AM–7 PM; Sunday, 12 PM–5 PM. Museum admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, teachers and seniors; members are free. Free admission is offered on Fridays, made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc., Houston. Tours by SITE Guides are available free of charge to the public with paid admission and are also regularly scheduled on Fridays at 6 pm, and Saturdays & Sundays at 2 pm. Call 505.989.1199 or visit www.sitesantafe.org for more information.

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