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SITE Santa Fe Presents *James Drake and Pascal Dusapin: A Dialogue*

Friday, May 14, 2004

Followed by an appearance by Dusapin at Stieren Orchestra Hall,
in collaboration with The Santa Fe Opera, and Santa Fe New Music
on Saturday May 15, 6pm

Santa Fe, NM – SITE Santa Fe is pleased to present acclaimed Santa Fe-based artist James Drake in conversation with award-winning French composer Pascal Dusapin on **Friday, May 14, 2004 at 5 pm**. Due to major construction on SITE Santa Fe's facility, the event will be held at **Tipton Hall, The College of Santa Fe, 1600 St. Michael's Drive**. Admission is free, but seating is limited. Reservations are suggested and may be made by calling 505.989.1199 x 10.

Mr. Dusapin and Mr. Drake have been long-time friends, and Mr. Dusapin composed the musical score which accompanies Mr. Drake's major recent work, *City of Tells*, in which Drake explores animal and human nature. Scheduled to be presented at SITE Santa Fe from February 10-April 30, 2005, the installation consists of two large pieces of approximately the same size (12 feet high by 32 feet long). One piece, a video projection in four parts, documents the spontaneous actions and responses elicited in different animals—a herd of hungry swine, a hummingbird, a python—when confronted with a banquet table. The other piece, a large-scale charcoal drawing on paper, mounted on canvas, depicts a social gathering of important people in the artist's life with the same banquet table in the foreground. By using the motif of the table as a Renaissance tableau, Drake references biblical tales and cultural mythology. *City of Tells* poetically addresses a collective Western history and daily life.

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The soundtrack to the video component is composed by Pascal Dusapin, recipient of the Victoire de la Musique, the French Music Academy Award for the composer of the year. Mr. Dusapin, who is 49, is well-known as a composer of stage, orchestra, chamber, choral and vocal works. His opera, *Perela, Man of Smoke*, was written and premiered by the Paris Opera at the Bastille in 2003. He studied at the Sorbonne and considers the composer Iannis Xenakis, whose seminars he attended, a major influence.

Born in Lubbock, Texas, James Drake lives and works in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He holds a BFA and an MFA degree from the Art Center College of Design, Los Angeles, and he has exhibited extensively throughout the United States including one-person exhibitions at Diverseworks Artspace, Houston, TX; El Paso Museum of Art, TX; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; La Jolla Museum of Art, CA; Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, TX; and the Alternative Museum, New York. His work was included in the 2000 Whitney Biennial as well as numerous other group exhibitions. Drake was the recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, two National Endowment for the Arts grants, and his work is in the collection of over a dozen public and private collections.

On Saturday, May 15, as part of the Santa Fe Opera Intermezzo's Opera Bites program, Mr. Dusapin will appear at 6 pm at Stieren Orchestra Hall on the grounds of The Santa Fe Opera. The program will feature performances of four of Mr. Dusapin's chamber works followed by a conversation with John Kennedy, Artistic Director of Santa Fe New Music. Admission is free, but reservations are suggested for SITE Santa Fe members. Please call SITE Santa Fe at 505-989-1199 x 10. This special evening is jointly presented by Intermezzo, The Santa Fe Opera's young professionals' organization, SITE Santa Fe, and Santa Fe New Music.

The forty minute program will include *Canto* for soprano, clarinet and cello; *So Full of Shapes is Fancy* for soprano and bass clarinet based on a text by Shakespeare;

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several études for piano; and finally, *Comoedia* for an ensemble based on the third chapter of *The Divine Comedy (Paradise)* by Dante Alighieri, which will be conducted by Mr. Kennedy. There will be a brief intermission before the conversation.

Participating arts are soprano Deborah van Renterghem; Pamela Delisse, cello; Michelle Campbell, clarinet; Katherine Yaden, viola; Greg Heltman, trumpet; Carol Redman, flute; Thomas O'Connor, oboe; and Jacqueline Helin, piano. Miss van Renterghem is a former Santa Fe Opera apprentice singer; the others are well-known performers in Santa Fe.

Please call 505.989.1199 for more information. This announcement is partially funded by the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers' Tax.

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