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*a contemporary art space*

*tenth anniversary 1995-2005*

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**SITE SANTA FE ANNOUNCES CURATOR**  
**FOR SIXTH INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN 2006**

Santa Fe, NM—SITE Santa Fe is pleased to announce the appointment of **Klaus Ottmann** as curator for its Sixth International Biennial exhibition scheduled to run from July 9, 2006 – January 7, 2007. Opening weekend festivities will be held July 7-9, 2006.

SITE Santa Fe's new director, Laura Steward Heon stated, "It is a thrill and an honor to work with Klaus Ottmann on the Sixth SITE Santa Fe Biennial. His probing scholarship into the fundamental experience of art makes him ideally suited to create a new kind of biennial, one concerned with the primary, visceral presence of the works. SITE Santa Fe's board of directors and staff look forward to bringing what is sure to be a great exhibition into being."

Ottmann states, "There is an urgent need today for art that challenges the dispassion and indecision of the world, an urgent desire to experience art with immediacy that exists in and of itself. The art I'm speaking about generates its own meaning rather than depending on external or contextual interpretations. This urgent presence will be profoundly embodied in the works in the next SITE Santa Fe Biennial. SITE's Biennial is the perfect venue to address both ethical and aesthetic questions, offering both solace and perceptual discomfort."

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Ottmann's exhibition will emphasize presence over history; experience over interpretation. Whereas the typical biennial survey is essentially a large group exhibition organized around an overarching theme, this exhibition will be structured more as a series of individual installations. Its goal will be to enable the viewer to have a deeper experience of the art in the exhibition by showing more works by fewer artists. These works will comprise a wide variety of media by an international group of emerging and established artists, and will feature installation pieces as well as performance components.

Klaus Ottmann is an independent curator, critic, and philosopher based in New York. He received a M.A. in philosophy from the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the Division of Media and Communications at the European Graduate School in Saas-Fee, Switzerland. He has written extensively on contemporary art and art theory for numerous publications including *Flash Art*, *Arts*, *Domus*, *C Magazine*, *Art On Paper*, *Art Press*, *Sculpture*, *ArtNews*, *artUS*, and *The Dictionary of Art*.

He is also the author of *Mark Morrisroe*, *The Essential™ Michelangelo*, *Wolfgang Laib: A Retrospective*, *The Essential™ Mark Rothko*, *James Lee Byars: Life, Love, and Death*, and *The Genius Decision: the Extraordinary and the Postmodern Condition*, and is currently writing a book on the philosophy of Yves Klein.

From 1988 to 1995, Ottmann was Curator of Exhibitions of the Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery, Wesleyan University, in Middletown, Connecticut, where he implemented an original exhibitions program, with emphasis on European and American art from 1960 to the present. He also initiated and taught Wesleyan's first course on contemporary theory and exhibition practice, now an established part of the curriculum.

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From 1996 to 1999 he held the position of Curator of Exhibitions at the American Federation of Arts in New York.

Exhibitions organized by Klaus Ottmann include *Life, Love, and Death: The Work of James Lee Byars* (Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Germany, and Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Strasbourg, France, 2004); *Wolfgang Laib: A Retrospective* (Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Henry Art Gallery, Seattle; Dallas Museum of Art; Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego at La Jolla; Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany, 2000–2002); *Mark Morrisroe: My Life. Polaroids 1977-1989* (Wesleyan University; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst, Berlin, 1996–1997); as well as the first US one-person museum exhibitions of Kiki Smith, Tom Friedman, Astrid Klein, and Franz Erhard Walther (Wesleyan University).

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

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 \$6 for adults and \$3 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. SITE Santa Fe gift certificates are available. Call 505.989.1199 or visit [www.sitesantafe.org](http://www.sitesantafe.org) for more information.

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