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a contemporary art space

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**JAPANESE ARTIST IN SITE SANTA FE BIENNIAL INVITES
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**



Top: Hiroshi Fuji, *Toys Power Make Up!* 2007.

Bottom: Hiroshi Fuji, *Kaekko*, 2002

May 23, 2008, Santa Fe, NM—SITE Santa Fe is pleased to announce the participation of Hiroshi Fuji (born in 1960 in Kagoshima, Japan; lives and works in Fukuoka, Japan) in *Lucky Number Seven*, SITE Santa Fe's Seventh International Biennial. Fuji's projects involve the local community wherever he makes his work. For *Lucky Number Seven*, Fuji-san will realize a series of ambitious and engaging projects that entail the hands of many to make. In the true spirit of collaboration, SITE Santa Fe invites the public to help Fuji create his art for the Biennial.

Fuji creates installations, performances, and events that focus on community. He uses materials deemed useless or valueless by society – empty plastic water bottles, discarded food packaging, and old toys – to create works of art ranging from monumental sculptures to theatrical performances that conceive art as an agent for social change. Frequently ephemeral and experimental in nature, Fuji's

projects simulate or recreate spaces of exchange, such as bazaars or fairs, in which the local community actively participates. **Kaekko**, a project first initiated in Japan, is a hallmark of his artistic practice – one that offers solutions to over-consumption and waste. The project simulates the model of a bazaar. Children exchange their outgrown or unwanted toys with one another, creating a new market and new values for formerly worthless items. To date, **Kaekko** has occurred in various locales globally over 3,000 times.

Biennial Kaekko

Fuji will realize a new version of *Kaekko* for *Lucky Number Seven*, which is planned for Tuesday, June 3rd from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at National Dance Institute- New Mexico, 1140 Alto Street. Children ages 5 -13 are invited to participate, though Fuji will allow all who want to participate to do so. For more details about *Kaekko* please call Tim Santos at NDI-NM, 983-7646 ext.103.

Kaeru Workshops

Toys collected at the *Kaekko* will be recycled into fanciful sculptures of birds in art-making sessions, or *Kaeru*, led by Fuji. *Kaeru* means to transform, to exchange, or to change in Japanese; it is also the word for frog. A selection of the bird sculptures made in the *Kaeru* Workshops will be on display at the Museum of International Folk Art during the run of the biennial.

The *Kaeru* Workshops are scheduled for Friday, June 6th and Saturday, June 7th from 3 – 5 PM at Fine Arts for Children & Teens (FACT), 1516 Pacheco St. Please call Stephanie Behning at FACT 992-2787 to register.

Fuji will also make a series of sculptures at the Santa Fe Opera. For this project, he needs thousands, yes thousands of empty water bottles (with their tops on), collected by June 7th. Local artists, assisted by teams of volunteers, will use the recycled bottles in the design and fabrication of extraordinary sculptures, which will be installed on the lamp posts in the Opera's parking lot.

How you can help—SITE Santa Fe is the collection point for gathering the massive amounts of materials needed for Fuji-san's art. Please bring clear plastic water bottles, packaging from snacks and sweets (even the little cellophane wrappers from hard candies), and all unwanted, outgrown or broken toys. It is most helpful if water bottles are rinsed and labels removed. Plastic packaging from snacks and candies likewise should be rinsed and dried. All toys are accepted in nearly any condition. Community collaboration is essential: your donations of materials will be accepted Mondays through Saturdays from 9 AM – 5 PM at SITE Santa Fe, 1606 Paseo de Peralta. Please call Katy Hill at 989-1199, x.14 for more information.

SITE's Seventh International Biennial, *Lucky Number Seven*, curated by Lance M. Fung, runs from June 22 to October 26, 2008. Opening weekend events are scheduled for June 20-22. The project features 25 artists from 18 institutions from 16 different countries. All works will be site-specific new commissions.

SITE Santa Fe is located at 1606 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. 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., of 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 for more information.

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